



# THE TIMES

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Minister sought anti-Tory message

# Civil servant quits in row on 'spinning'

By JILL SHERMAN AND VALERIE ELLIOTT

TENSIONS over apparent attempts to turn civil servants into government spin doctors grew yesterday as a senior information officer resigned and a minister was reportedly rebuffed after a row about a "political" press release.

Jonathan Haslam, who was John Major's last press secretary, joined the exodus of senior officers after a bitter wrangle with the Education Minister Stephen Byers over a sentence critical of the Tories in a statement about parents' choice of schools.

Mr Byers had drafted the press release and asked Mr Haslam on Tuesday night to prepare it for the next day. But Mr Haslam infuriated the minister by refusing to include a paragraph saying: "This further increase in the number of appeals by parents shows how hollow the claim of the previous Government that they were extending parental choice really was."

Mr Haslam, supported by his colleagues, said that the sentence was too political. The following morning, it is understood that Mr Byers summoned Michael Richard, the permanent secretary, to complain about Mr Haslam.

Sources say, however, that Mr Richard used the occasion to upbraid the minister for attempting to break the Civil Service code of impartiality.

He is said to have reminded the minister of the guidance on the actions of information officers which states: "These should be objective and explanatory, not tendentious or polemical and should not be, or liable to misrepresentation as being, party political."



Byers warned about rule on objectivity

Mr Byers then contacted the Labour Party press machine at Millbank to ensure that the absent paragraph was included in a party press release sent out at the same time as that prepared by Mr Haslam.

Within 24 hours, Mr Haslam had announced that he had resigned to become director of corporate affairs at the London Metal Exchange. He refused to be drawn on the incident with Mr Byers.

Whitehall sources have accused ministers in other departments of trying to insert political statements into press statements criticising "the Tories" or "the previous administration". Complaints have been also made to Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, about the media handling of the £300 million diverted to the National Health Service this week.

Ministers, used to the services of the Millbank rebut-

tal unit when in opposition, are known to be concerned that their press officers have not tried to promote their stories and last month Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's press secretary, issued a memo to all information officers complaining about their failure to put the Government's case across.

Whitehall sources admit that their operation could be sharpened up — Sir Robin has already set up a review — but they resent any suggestion that they should depart from their traditional impartiality.

They have recently become so alarmed about recent "spinning" of stories that they held a meeting with their union officials yesterday to discuss the problem. They also complained that ministers and their political advisers were sniping about them. One press officer who resigned was said to have been described by a political source as "dead meat".

The meeting came hours after Jean Caines, director of information at the Trade and Industry Department, confirmed that she was taking early retirement at the age of 50. She is known to have had a number of run-ins with junior ministers.

Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio who is in charge of government presentation, has said that the information service is valued and that reports about politicisation are groundless.

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Tai-Shan Schierenberg with his golden wedding anniversary painting

# The Queen accepts that royal image must change

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS AND ALAN HAMILTON

THE Queen has accepted that the Royal Family must change its image after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, senior Palace officials accompanying the troubled royal tour of India have told *The Times*.

There will be no sudden switch of style, but a source close to the Queen spoke yesterday of the need to demonstrate "softer, gentler touches" in the wake of what he described as the first royal tragedy to occur in the mass media culture. But his admission was accompanied by the issuing of a warning that "no one should ever try to persuade any member of the Royal Family to be anything they are not".

There was not much that the Queen — aged 71, on the throne for more than 45 years, and about to celebrate her golden wedding anniversary — could do to create the gentler touches that she had not already done, the source said, but he suggested that people were noticing her efforts a bit more.

Last week in Pakistan, the Queen added a distinctly human note to a speech when she complained that the world was beginning to move too fast for someone of her age. But her sympathetically received admission has been overshadowed by the mire of diplomatic trouble and negative press coverage that has plagued much of her tour.

Palace officials, who had hoped for a successful projection of the Queen on the international stage, yesterday emphasised the "old technical position" that the Queen was in India on the advice of ministers in Britain, and that she does not go out on a limb. This seemed a thinly

disguised attempt to emphasise that responsibility for last week's remarks by the Queen in Islamabad, in which she urged a solution to the Kashmir conflict, lay firmly with the Foreign Office.

But if the monarchy is determined to become more democratic and populist, it could do worse than agree to sit for a golden wedding portrait commissioned by the very antithesis of elitism, *Reader's Digest*. The result, unveiled yesterday at the magazine's London offices, may disappoint those accustomed to the flatteries of court painters from Holbein to Annigoni, but it attempts to portray the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh as an ordinary, human, married

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couple. The picture will appear in the *Digest's* November issue. The original, which will remain for the time being at its offices, may be offered to a provincial art gallery.

It is the work of Tai-Shan Schierenberg, born in Skene 35 years ago to a Chinese mother and German father, whose previous sisters have included the writer John Mortimer and Lord Carrington, the former foreign secretary.

"I wanted to display solidity and reliability, which is why the pose is a bit monumental," Mr Schierenberg said yesterday. "But I also wanted to convey the Queen's spark of wit, and to say something about their relationship. Despite the formality that their position imposes, there is a humanity there. The Duke is Continued on page 2, col 1

## University anger at Blunkett attack

An eminent scientist working on revolutionary project to defeat malaria has been drawn into a row over an "astonishing" attack by David Blunkett on university academics teaching his student son Alastair. Page 2

## Smith U-turn on Waterstone's

WH Smith performed a strategic U-turn yesterday when it announced plans to demerge the Waterstone's chain and to sell the Virgin/Orion. Price music business and The Wall, its US music business. Page 25

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# Paedophiles face life bans from children's play areas

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND SHIRLEY ENGLISH

LAWs banning paedophiles from schools, playgrounds and other risk areas are expected to be introduced by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, within the next few weeks.

Courts would be able to impose restriction orders on convicted sex offenders that would ban them indefinitely from areas where they might offend, under proposals likely to figure in the Crime and Disorder Bill.

The community protection orders would carry a penalty of up to five years' jail and unlimited fines if they were breached and could also cover people who commit paedophile crimes overseas. Police officers or local authorities could apply for the order if they were concerned about a sex offender in their area.

Mr Straw is also expected to introduce proposals that would subject convicted paed-

ophiles to supervision orders that may require them to keep in touch with probation officers long after their sentences have expired.

The move was disclosed by Henry McLeish, the Scottish Home Affairs Minister, as a possible new law for Scotland and it was confirmed later that ministers were considering similar measures for the whole United Kingdom.

Mr McLeish said: "If there is a concern in a community, there could be a court order backed up by reports which will actually infringe on the liberties of this individual. It will detail areas they cannot go to. This could be an indefinite order, depending on their behaviour, and it could also be punishable by up to five years in prison if they break the order."

"This will put tremendous pressure on the individual and, more importantly, it will

reassure the community that the Government is listening, the Government wants further action."

Sir Brian Mawhinney, the Shadow Home Secretary, said the Tories would scrutinise the plans because they broke new territory.

He said: "Everybody finds crimes identified with paedophiles to be disgusting, depraved and unacceptable, but what we are not in the position of doing, I think, without a lot of careful consideration of the actual legislation... we need to understand... the implications for some of the fundamental freedoms of citizens of this country, particularly those who have paid their debt."

Civil liberties groups and lawyers also criticised the plans. They said the measures risked "opening the door to harassment" and might

Continued on page 2, col 6

# Lords deal double blow on handguns

By NICHOLAS WATT, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government suffered a double defeat in the House of Lords last night over its plans to introduce a total ban on handguns.

However, within minutes of the votes Labour made clear that it would waste no time in overturning the defeats when the Government's Firearms (Amendment) Bill returns to the Commons.

Peers inflicted their first defeat on the Government when they voted by 119 to 101 — a majority of 18 — to exempt disabled people from the ban. Later, peers voted by 90 votes to 77 — a majority of 13 — to allow international competition shooting to continue at specially approved and secure national centres. About 75 of the 119 who voted to allow disabled pistol shooters to carry on with their sport were hereditary peers.

The exemption for disabled people from the ban was introduced by Lord Howell,

the former Labour sports minister, who told peers that he had campaigned for years for the disabled and this took precedence over party loyalty.

Lord Crawshaw, a Tory peer, said it was hard for disabled people to change from using pistols to rifles or shotguns which were too heavy, but Lord Williams of Mostyn, the junior Home Office minister, said he could not accept any exemptions.

Last night Mike Yardley, of the Sportsman's Association, which has lobbied against the proposed ban, welcomed the vote. "It shows the Lords have been listening to our case."

A Labour Party spokesman said: "The total ban on handguns is supported by the overwhelming majority of the public and by an overwhelming majority of the House of Commons. The public will be bewildered that the House of Lords has sought to dilute the Bill."

# Housewife cycles into a speed trap at 43mph

By EMMA WILKINS

A HOUSEWIFE who wanted to lose weight was stopped by police on her bicycle after speeding through a radar trap at 43mph.

Ros Jones, 43, was advised to take up gentle cycling by her slimming instructor to help to reduce her weight from 14st 4lb. Mrs Jones, of Golden Grove, Carmarthen-shire, decided to use her daughter's bicycle for the daily seven-mile trip to the nearest town, Llandello. As Mrs Jones became fitter

she cut the journey time from an agonising hour and a half to 45 minutes. But she also ran into trouble with the police after she was recorded in a radar trap exceeding the speed limit by 13mph.

Mrs Jones, now a trim 11st 1lb, was surprised and embarrassed. "I had no idea I was going so fast," she said yesterday. "I could see the police officer pointing his machine towards me, but I thought he was after the car behind. I couldn't believe it when he pulled me over and said I'd been clocked at 43mph. I

never been in trouble with the police in my life and it was a terrible shock to be stopped. The policeman gave me a right ticking off."

The bicycle will now be fitted with a speedometer. Dyfed Powys Police said yesterday they had decided to let Mrs Jones off with a warning.

PC Alan Rowlands said: "It is quite possible to achieve that speed because she's got a high-gear mountain bike. I have known other cyclists with similar cycles to do in the region of 40 miles per hour

quite easily on the flat. The road she was travelling on is not hilly at all."

In September Anthony Adams, 24, was fined £120 under a 150-year-old law for bicycling "furiously" through the streets of Cambridge at about 25 mph.

Phil Heston, secretary of the Road Time Trials Council, the governing body for cyclists riding against the clock, said: "43mph is fast but not all that fast. Competitors in the Tour de France regularly touch between 70 and 80mph."



Jones: "I had no idea I was going so fast"

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# Review of party funding could lead to early legislation

Valerie Elliott on the appointment of Sir Patrick Neill as standards watchdog

A LIMIT on the amount political parties can spend on general election campaigns came a step closer yesterday.

Sir Patrick Neill, QC, formally appointed by Tony Blair to replace Lord Nolan as the public standards watchdog, confirmed he would examine all aspects of party political funding. At the same time, Mr Blair promised legislation to clean up the system.

In future, corporate donations to election funds could be capped and require shareholders' approval. State funding for parties will be examined, as will the type of blind trust set up to fund Mr Blair's office in opposition. The issue of allowing

civil servants to be seconded to help to run party offices will also be looked at.

Sir Patrick's wide-ranging review of party funding coincided with the announcement from Mr Blair that he was to introduce early legislation to ban foreign donations to political parties and to make public the name of any donor who contributes more than £500.

Sir Patrick, who is to take up his new post next month and is to become a life peer, is still waiting for his formal remit from Mr Blair, which he expected to be drawn up with the agreement of the other political parties. But it is clear that if new rules are brought in by the next general election, they could signal more restrained political campaigns.

It is believed that in the last election the Conservatives spent £20 million, Labour £13 million and the Liberal Democrats £3 million on their national publicity drives.

Sir Patrick said yesterday he would look at the funding of opposition parties, including how party leaders funded their offices. There have been many questions asked about the "blind trust" set up

to run Mr Blair's opposition office, although his aides insist it was done to protect Mr Blair so that he would not be influenced by knowing the names of donors and how much they had given his campaign.

Sir Patrick said it would be "anomalous" if party leaders' funding was not included. "There has to be a package of rules that are fair across the parties. If there were methods of getting round the statutory controls or escape routes nobody would have confidence in the system."

He insisted he had a completely open mind about party funding but that he might look at party expenditure as well as income.

"One possible aspect we're looking at is overall expenditure by the parties. There's a limit on what candidates can spend, but no limit on what the parties can spend at an election time. And that strikes most observers as somewhat odd. There are also questions about income."

Sir Patrick, a former Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University, hopes to bring out a discussion paper on all the issues concerning party funding within three months and to take

evidence in public next spring.

Mr Blair said: "The purpose of putting Pat Neill in charge of the new committee is so that he can look at all the aspects of the way that political parties are funded, the way their campaigns are run."

"Because what is tremendously important is not just to clean up the standards in Parliament, to make sure there's proper openness and honesty in the way that Members of Parliament conduct their business, but also that political campaigns and the way that parties are funded have the same openness and transparency."

Veteran watchdog, page 11

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Letter bomb sent to Trimble

Army bomb disposal experts yesterday defused a crude letter bomb sent to David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist Party leader, at his constituency office in Lurgan, Co. Armagh.

Similar devices have been sent in recent days to Jeffrey Donaldson, the party's MP for Lagan Valley, and Robert McCartney, leader of the UK Unionist Party and MP for Down North. No organisation has claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Other paramilitary incidents included a Londonderry teenager snatched from his home and found a few hours later with cigarette burns, and a man ordered to leave the city by a gang that accused him of sexual abuse.

### Two die on M25

Two people were killed in an accident involving eight vehicles which closed the M25 in Essex before the start of the evening rush hour. A lorry smashed through the central reservation and landed on top of a car near the Dartford crossing. Two men, one from each vehicle, died at the scene. Police arrested a driver in connection with the crash.

### Red meat 'safe'

The cancer scare over red meat is unjustified, two Cambridge specialists have claimed. In contrast to advice given by the Department of Health, Brian Cox and Margaret Whitchelow of the Institute of Public Health say their studies give no evidence that eating meat more than once a week increases the risk of cancer.

### Divers missing

Two women are missing, believed drowned, on a diving holiday in the Galapagos Islands. Julia Hawke, from London, sister of Lord Hawke, and Susannah Stephen, from Edinburgh, both 37, vanished on Sunday while making their first 15-minute dive. The Foreign Office said local divers were still searching for the women.

### CS spray backed

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, strongly backed police use of CS sprays yesterday and rejected a coroner's call for a review. Two weeks ago an East London jury delivered a verdict of unlawful killing on an asylum-seeker who had been arrested. Dr Harold Price, the coroner, called on chief constables to examine the use of the sprays.

### Saudi sentence

Lucille McLauchlan, one of the British nurses accused of the murder of an Australian colleague in Saudi Arabia, will receive no more than five years in jail after the agreement by the victim's brother to waive the death sentence and accept £750,000 instead. Ghazi al-Gosabi, the Saudi Ambassador to Britain, said yesterday.

### Gas poisoning

Florence Nightingale may have been a victim of untreated carbon monoxide poisoning, according to a medical pressure group, which claims that modern GPs are still grossly misdiagnosing the illness. A study published by CO Support says that out of 77 sufferers, only one was initially diagnosed correctly. Cases were mistaken for flu.

## Scientist defends academics from Blunkett attack

AN EMINENT scientist working on a project to defeat malaria was yesterday drawn into a row over an attack by David Blunkett on university academics teaching his student son Alastair.

Professor Julian Crampton heads the biological sciences department at Liverpool University, where lecturers were criticised by the Education Secretary for spending too much attention on research and too little on teaching students — among them Mr Blunkett's son, a second-year marine biologist.

Academics at the department expressed amazement yesterday after Mr Blunkett said: "The people teaching him are not interested in teaching. They are more interested in their own research. I don't think that's acceptable."

Professor Crampton, who teaches undergraduates, is part of a team trying to alter the genes of mosquitoes so that instead of spreading malaria they become "flying syringes" that deliver a vaccine. The method could prevent the two million deaths from malaria each year.

The department defended its record and said its groundbreaking research helped to inform teaching. Staff pointed to "rave reviews" from students on 20-year-old Mr Blunkett's course.

Trevor Norton, professor of marine biology, described the Education Secretary's outburst as "astonishing". Speaking from the university's Port Erin marine biology centre on the Isle of Man, he said: "I cannot believe these comments deal with the course taught here. I am just astounded."

Minister's son complained teachers were too busy with research, says David Charter

ed and cannot believe he could accuse my staff of that. The enthusiasm with which they teach this particular course is outstanding. We get more applications and inquiries for marine biology than all the other biological sciences put together."

He said the department conducted an annual anonymous survey of students' views and received "rave reviews". He said academics' research brought "immediacy and a cutting edge" to their teaching. Professor Norton added: "I think students should have a right to com-



Blunkett said staff not interested in teaching

plain about courses they take if they are not good enough for whatever reason, but I think it is rather unfortunate his father should say this.

"One of the things our students say they like best is the very close contact with the members of staff on the course. It is one of the special things they get out of being here."

Mr Blunkett's office yesterday said the comments were made at a seminar for vice-chancellors on Tuesday which the Secretary of State thought was "off the record".

One of the recommendations of the recent Dearing Committee report on Higher Education was an Institute of Teaching and Learning to train university academics to become better teachers. The Government's response will be contained in a White Paper on Lifelong Learning to be published before Christmas.

A spokesman for Liverpool University added: "As a university we are committed to the principle of teaching within an active research environment, and we believe we can demonstrate the benefits which students derive from that."

Chloe Smith, president of the Guild of Students at Liverpool, said Alastair Blunkett had kept a low profile at the university. She added that students often found it hard to adjust to the more pro-active role.

Andrew Taylor, chairman of the Liverpool Association of University Teachers, said lecturers' research was vital. "If universities were just to be for teaching, then presumably we would still be teaching that the earth is flat."



Viscount Tony Pandy: "eager to bend the knee to anyone above his station" says Sir Robert Rhodes James

## Tony Pandy was 'malicious bully'

By NICHOLAS WATT  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

VISCOUNT Tony Pandy, the Commons Speaker who was eulogised when he died last month, was denounced yesterday as "an arrogant, sanctimonious, deceitful and malicious bully".

Sir Robert Rhodes James, the former Tory MP who is a distinguished historian, dismissed the viscount "as a fraud and a charlatan, eager to bend the knee to anyone above his station and thinly contemptuous of anyone deemed to be below it".

Sir Robert said that he first came into contact with him when he served as a Commons clerk in the early 1960s. In an article in *The Spectator* Sir Robert

accused the then George Thomas of chairing a standing committee in a dictatorial manner.

Under the headline "Not As Nice As All That", he wrote: "His harshness was directed less at the Members than at the hapless officials: he bawled out the policeman at the door for not closing it on time; he was nasty to the Hansard reporters; he treated me with contemptuous disdain, as he did all officials. Unsurprisingly, we deeply disliked him, regarding him as an arrogant, sanctimonious, deceitful and malicious bully."

Sir Robert said that when he became MP for Cambridge in 1976 Thomas's attitude to him was transformed. He said: "I had suddenly become important; he earnestly desired me to be his friend;

he called me to speak and intervene in the House with almost embarrassing regularity; his mother, the legendary 'Mam', having died, he felt free to share a glass of whisky with me... But despite all this, with my memories of how he had been, I viewed him through cautious eyes. I had, after all, a vote, and George was very keen on being re-elected Speaker."

The former MP added that Tony Pandy's legendary Welsh charm concealed a vicious streak. His attempt to wreck the career of a senior clerk backfired when he was confronted with a mini-mutiny.

Sir Robert praised his charm and wit, but described him as one of the greatest establishment con-men of his time.

## Royal image

Continued from page 1  
very protective of his wife, and always refers to her as 'The Queen'. She is very loving towards him, and refers to him as 'Philip'."

The artist had a total of six hours of sittings for his 6' by 5' canvas, mostly with his subject separately, except for an initial joint session in a room in the couple's private apartments at Windsor Castle.

At that first session, the Duke complained of having to sit on "a bloody uncomfortable sofa", but soon entered into the spirit of the engagement, making helpful suggestions and even moving furniture. "The Duke is naturally, bad-tempered, but I think he realises it is part of his charm. In repose, he is

quite scary; he has an edge to him," Mr Schienerberg said. "The Queen is much easier. She is very amusing and laughs easily. She is a much looser and nicer person to be with. Even she was happy to move lights and furniture."

At one sitting, the Queen produced a copy of last year's controversial portrait of her by Antony Williams, which featured her with enormous veined hands complete with snagged fingernails. "Look at my fingers; they're not really like that," she said.

The Queen sits for about six portraits a year, most formal and destined to hang in regimental messes or the boardrooms of her patronages. Paintings of the couple together are much rarer.

## 'Soft' sentence on child molester is overturned

By LIN JENKINS

A CONVICTED child molester had his suspended sentence converted into a 15-month jail term by three Appeal Court judges yesterday to reflect public condemnation of the crime and as a warning to other potential offenders.

Peter Reed, an oil company executive, was not in court and was ordered to surrender himself and be taken to prison.

The judges imposed the sentence after hearing that the Attorney General John Morris had objected that the original 18 month suspended sentence was "too soft" — a penalty for

sexually abusing three boys aged between six and 11. He acted after the parents of the victims, who were friends of Reed's own three children, said they were furious that he should be free when classified as a continuing risk to children.

Lord Bingham, the Lord Chief Justice, said there were no exceptional circumstances to justify the lenient sentence.

The public rightly and strongly condemn offences of this kind," he said. "Parents are entitled to look to the courts for effective protection

and that means that sentences imposed on those who transgress as seriously as this must involve a clear punitive element which doesn't exist when the offender is free to continue his ordinary life."

"It is necessary to mark the public condemnation of such offences by a sentence of imprisonment both to punish the offender and deter others. Sentences must have a clear punitive element."

Reed, 44, of Sevenoaks, Kent, molested the children when they came to play with his own three children.

## Paedophile ban

Continued from page 1  
erode the "bedrock of British justice", namely, the presumption of innocence.

The measures would close a loophole in the recently introduced Sex Offenders Act which requires only sex offenders released after September 1 to register their names and addresses with the police. It does not carry any powers to force offenders to modify their behaviour once free.

The proposals were being viewed yesterday as an attempt by the Government to regain public confidence after a spate of vigilante attacks in which communities took the law into their own hands and drove sex offenders, as well as innocent people, from their homes.

In Aberdeen, the public hysteria resulted in riots. In Stirling, in February, mobs gathered outside an offender's home and police officers had to be called to escort him to safety. Similar scenes also occurred recently in Swindon in Wiltshire.

Community safety orders would be effective in cases such as that of Robert Oliver, 43, a convicted paedophile and killer who was released last month after serving eight years of a 15-year sentence.

He has since been driven from his home in Swindon and has stayed in four other addresses. He is now in a police safe house in Brighton, but is not covered by any statutory parole guidelines or supervision.

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# Mother pleads for help to trap road rage killer

Police seeking the driver who rammed a car, killing two young lovers, are checking film from speed cameras

POLICE hunting the driver who is said to have rammed the back of a young couple's vehicle, forcing them off the road to their deaths, yesterday released details of the car they were seeking.

The registration plate begins with KS and the vehicle is described as a white or light-coloured saloon.

The investigation into the deaths ten days ago of Toby Exley, 22, and his girlfriend, Karen Martin, 20, has been taken over by murder squad detectives. They are looking at film from traffic speed cameras along the A316 in south-west London, known as the Great Chertsey Road.

The families of the couple called for witnesses or anyone who knows the identity of the driver to contact them.

Miss Martin's mother, Kay, said: "There must be someone out there who knows who this maniac is. This man is likely to do this again and he needs to be stopped. We want to prevent another family feeling the utter devastation that we're feeling now."

Mr Exley's brother Robin, 19, said: "Toby has had his life stolen from him, and me and my brother Ben have had Toby stolen from us."

The person who did this should be stopped and they should stop and think about our family and Karen's family. Anyone out there could be victims of this person."

The crash took place on October 6 but police only released details on Wednesday evening after a witness came forward to tell how the car had pushed the young couple's vehicle off the road.



A young Karen on holiday in Florida

The saloon car is said to have come up behind the couple's Ford Fiesta in the fast lane heading westwards at Hanworth at about 8.50 pm. The driver became impatient with their speed and rammed into the back of their car three times.

Mr Exley could not move into the slow lane because of traffic but moved to the right of the fast lane to let the saloon pass. The saloon then hit him again, catching the left hand rear of his car and forcing him to veer right into the wooden

central reservation. A motorcyclist who saw the incident stopped near the crash and told police what he had seen. But traffic police could not find anyone to verify the story. This week they mounted road checks on the A316 at the time of the accident and two motorists backed up the motorcyclist's story.

Toby Exley was a chef and Miss Martin worked for an advertising agency.

Apart from the description of the saloon from the witnesses, scientists have also examined the wrecked Fiesta and found signs of ramming. Paint scrapings will help police to identify the saloon.

Scotland Yard said yesterday that other drivers must have seen the incident and launched a new appeal for witnesses. The police want to find other drivers who may have had difficulties with the saloon that night. Garages are being asked to report any suspicious body work repairs.

Police have started gathering film from speed cameras and the closed-circuit television cameras which monitor traffic on the A316. The road leads on to the M3 and cameras on the motorway will also be checked. Eventually police may widen their search even further and ask other forces to help.

Mrs Martin, 54, said: "He must have driven like that before. Someone must have seen the damage to the front of his car and he must now be acting differently. The slightest bit of information could be crucial - and could help save someone else's life. There must be some poor soul out there who is going to get it from him again."

Mrs Martin added: "They were such lovely people, a beautiful couple. We felt marriage was definitely on the cards, although it had not actually been spoken about. There is no way that Toby would have taken any chances with Karen in the car as he was too much in love with her to put her in any danger. He was immensely sensible."

Anyone with information should contact the police incident room on (0181) 2476377 or 2476343.



A recent photograph of Karen Martin and Toby Exley

## Detectives suspended over drug allegations

By PAUL WILKINSON

TWO detectives from a squad running a zero-tolerance crime policy have been suspended after allegations that they gave heroin to drug-addict prisoners in exchange for confessions.

A third officer with the Cleveland force has been given a final warning about his conduct. The detectives, based at Middlesbrough on Teesside, are also accused of beating up suspects.

They are part of the CID, controlled by Detective Superintendent Ray Mallon, who advocates the zero-tolerance policy of not allowing even the most minor offence to go unchallenged. He has pledged to resign if crime in the town was not reduced by 20 per cent. His tough stance has achieved national celebrity and has been praised by the Prime Minister and Jack Straw, the Home Secretary.

Last night Richard Brunstrom, the Assistant Chief Constable (Operations) with Cleveland, confirmed that the Police Complaints Authority had launched an inquiry into the allegations.

## Princess crash survivor freed to seek damages

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

TREVOR REES-JONES, sole survivor of the crash in which Diana, Princess of Wales, was killed, has become a civil plaintiff in the continuing criminal inquiry into its cause.

The move means that as a party to the case, Mr Rees-Jones, 29, will have access to the police file on the investigation and will be able to seek damages from whoever is found to be responsible for the crash. Under French law, Mr Rees-Jones, a bodyguard employed by Dodi Fayed, cannot now be interviewed by French magistrates or police without the presence of his lawyer.

The accident on August 31 left Mr Rees-Jones with serious face and chest injuries and partial amnesia. He was flown back to Britain earlier this month after two interviews with French police in which he said that he could not remember the crucial seconds immediately before the crash.

A medical examination ordered by Hervé Stéphan, the investigating magistrate, has concluded that the type of amnesia from which Mr Rees-Jones suffers is rarely revers-

ible. The investigators believe that Mr Rees-Jones was injured by an initial impact on his right side, which triggered the front-seat airbag of the car, followed by a frontal impact seconds later. The bodyguard was the only person in the Mercedes limousine wearing a seatbelt.

Bernard Darneville, a lawyer for the Fayed family, has asked Judge Stéphan to release all video footage obtained from security cameras, banks, offices or news organisations relating to the car's final journey from the Paris Ritz to the tunnel beneath the Place de l'Alma.

Mr Fayed's body has been removed from a cemetery near Woking, Surrey, and reburied on his father's country estate 25 miles away near Oxted, Surrey.

Mohamed al Fayed attended the ceremony on Wednesday night, after obtaining permission for disinterment from the Home Office. His proposals for a mausoleum will be considered next month by the local council's planning committee.

## Branson ready to fly again

By ANDREW PIERCE  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

RICHARD BRANSON is planning to spend Christmas Day in a hot-air balloon 30,000ft up on his third attempt to circumnavigate the globe.

The millionaire adventurer told a London press conference yesterday that the Virgin team had ironed out the faults which brought the Global Challenger down to earth less than 24 hours after take-off

from Marrakesh last year. The Virgin boss has spent the past nine months analysing flight data from the capsule which was retrieved from Algeria where it came to grief. Mr Branson said: "We believe we have worked out what went wrong and that we now have equipment that will succeed."

The balloon was forced to land only 20 hours into the flight. Now information on temperature, pressure and altitude has been analysed with

the results used to create computer models capable of plotting the behaviour of future flights.

The attempt will begin around December 1, again in Marrakesh. Mr Branson will be joined by his long-term partners, Piers Lindstrand and Rory McCarthy, with supplies for a Christmas Day lunch.

Mr Branson's is one of four teams battling to become the first to circumnavigate the world non-stop.



Danielle Haskell worked for Manchester airport and Britannia Airways

## Police camera catches disabled woman walking

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A FORMER ballerina, whose plight touched the heart of thousands when she was confined to a wheelchair, has been filmed by a police spy camera walking unaided.

Danielle Haskell, 33, was voted Oldham Woman of the Year in 1993 for the wholehearted way she fought her disability, helping to raise thousands of pounds for charity with parachute jumps and wheelchair pushes.

Her carers were last night coming to terms with the revelation that Ms Haskell, who lives in a specially-equipped flat for the disabled, in Oldham, Greater Manchester, can walk 12 years after she became paralysed from the waist down. The camera is understood to have caught her on foot in her ground floor flat in Coldhurst, owned by a housing association in Oldham.

The secret video camera was set up to discover who was causing damage inside her flat. Ms Haskell complained to police that she was being stalked and, in one short spell last month, almost a hundred 999 calls were made from her flat.

Ms Haskell told police that her flat had been broken into, but police have so far found no evidence of an intruder.

Dick Crawshaw said: "We acted in Miss Haskell's best interests

by offering her advice and then setting up surveillance outside her home. We were surprised to find she could walk."

Ms Haskell became paralysed in 1985 after she complained of numbness in her legs as she was about to take up a dancing job in Greece. Since then she has become a well known figure locally.

In 1992 she took part in a wheelchair push to Hull. She worked at Manchester International Airport in an advisory capacity to help the airport cater for disabled people. The role led to a similar unpaid post with Britannia Airways.

She said at the time: "I absolutely love doing this work. I find I am able to relate more easily to the disabled more easily than able-bodied people." A year later she became Woman of the Year.

Ms Haskell refused to come to the door of her flat yesterday. She said through the security intercom: "I have been told by my solicitor not to talk to anyone."

A spokesman for social services said that Ms Haskell has been in receipt of housing and other benefits. A police spokesman said: "It is anticipated that in the near future the occupant of the premises will be interviewed by the police."

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-Modern Living, 7/97, N. Lam



(Okay, so we made the last one up.)

PHILIPS

Let's make things better

# Mother denied custody over judge's 'shock' at naked couple

A MOTHER who lost custody of her children because they had seen her and her fiancé naked won a rehearing yesterday after two Court of Appeal judges criticised the judge for allowing himself to be "shocked".

The 37-year-old woman, who cannot be named for legal reasons, lost a battle for the children with her estranged husband in June this year. She was defeated, the Court of Appeal was told, after a county court judge heard that she and the man she plans to marry had allowed her children — a boy aged 9 and a girl aged 6 — to see them naked and shared baths with them.

Yesterday, overturning the order by Judge James Wignmore and ordering a rehearing of the custody battle, Lady Justice Butler-Sloss said: "The judge appears to have allowed his instinctive reaction to the uninhibited behaviour of this couple and their lack of recognition of others' attitudes to override everything else in this case."

Judges should not allow themselves to be shocked. They can be disapproving but they must not allow themselves to be shocked. He was plainly wrong.

"These are perfectly decent, respectable people. They may have been unwise but there was nothing to suggest the children were at any risk of abuse."

During yesterday's hearing the mother's counsel, Paul Storey, said the children's father, with whom they had been living after the marriage broke down in 1996, had reported his estranged wife and her boyfriend to social services and police when the children mentioned seeing them naked. Social workers

Woman wins new hearing after Court of

Appeal criticises ruling, reports Frances Gibb

had questioned the boy and, in view of the father's reaction, advised the mother not to let the children see them naked again or to share baths. Both police and the social workers felt no further action was necessary and the couple promised to follow their advice.

But the father refused to allow the youngsters to stay with their mother and when the custody hearing came up in June he argued that the children should not live with her because of the nudity and communal bathing.

Judge Wignmore accepted there had been no question of child abuse and accepted the mother and her boyfriend's

promise not to repeat the nudity or the bathing was in good faith. But he awarded custody to the father, commenting that he had known of children being taken into care for less and he found the attitude of social services "startling".

Lady Justice Butler-Sloss, one of the country's most experienced family law judges, said yesterday she had never come across such a case and she doubted Judge Wignmore had. "To be thoughtless and indiscreet does not raise a child protection problem. This is not abusive behaviour. I absolutely fail to see how an indiscreet and uninhibited attitude could lead to child protection concerns," she said.

"In a happy, well-run family, how members behave in the privacy of their own home is their business and no one else's." However, she added that with the custody battle coming up, the mother and her boyfriend had possibly been careless and indiscreet in view of the father's attitude, although she did not doubt the innocence of their actions.

Speaking outside the court the mother said: "I am just so relieved that they have actually seen the other judge was wrong. I couldn't believe it. It frightened me to death. We thought it was all over after we talked to social services. I didn't think it was going to come up."

"I never thought there was anything wrong in nudity. My children have seen me without any clothes on lots of times. And as for the bath, it was just popping in together for five minutes on a Sunday morning." She added: "It was all so innocent and it became so misconstrued."



Butler-Sloss: had never come across such a case



Anthea Boyleston of the Bradford team that has examined remains of 29 victims; many died as they fled

## How chivalry died in Roses battle

By PAUL WILKINSON

A MASS grave from the bloodiest battle fought on British soil has dispelled a long-held belief in the chivalry and honour of medieval soldiers.

It has also shown a physical strength among the troops that was far superior to modern man in spite of the comparatively poor diet, stature and health of the period. Archaeologists who examined the remains of 29 victims of the Wars of the Roses battle of Tewkesbury in 1471 found that many had suffered a merciless fate.

The engagement which lasted most of the day, left the field awash with blood according to contemporary reports. It ended in a Yorkist victory and secured the throne for Edward IV but up to 28,000 soldiers died.

Far from being an heroic engagement in the style of

Morte d'Arthur, the conflict involving about 120,000 men was fought mainly by yeoman foot soldiers on a bitter March day. Six hours of hand-to-hand fighting in driving snow and mud ended with the rout of the Lancastrians and bloody retribution.

Christopher Krusel, of

been mutilated after death. We suspect this was medieval reprisal killing by livery soldiers."

His team was called into the site near Tadcaster, North Yorkshire, after it was discovered by workmen building a garage. They found that many of the soldiers were

had been kneeling or lying when they were hit.

The archaeologists found healed earlier injuries showing that the men had survived previous battles. Some skulls bore dents and sword slashes.

Dr Krusel said the soldiers' physical strength was impressive. Some had used longbows requiring twice the pull exerted by today's best archers. He said: "They were very robust fellows, very broad, although not tall."

The bones are likely to be reburied at All Saint's Church, Saxton, near Tadcaster, alongside other previously excavated remains from the battle.

Lawrence Butler, senior lecturer in medieval archaeology at York University, said that not finding any horsemen among the casualties suggested that if the battle was going against them, the upper classes of horsemen would quickly get away.

6 People have a view of medieval battle as chivalrous, but these guys just beat the hell out of each other

Bradford University, who examined the skeletons, said: "People have a view of medieval warfare as being about chivalry, ransoms and people being captured and not killed. But these guys would just beat the hell out of each other and were pretty damn tough. One man had 12 injuries to his head. He had

repeatedly beaten about the head and face after they had died. The head wounds included crush injuries from maces, flails and half-hammers; cuts from swords or knives and puncture wounds from arrows or pole axes.

Many of the blows were delivered to the top of the head, indicating the victims

## Woman is urged to sell home to pay for son's fees

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

A MOTHER being sued by her son was yesterday urged to sell her home to meet his £400-a-month demand for maintenance to finance his time at university.

Patrick Macdonald, 20, estranged from his mother for almost five years, claimed that his law studies at Aberdeen would suffer if she did not support him and he was forced to work part-time. He refused to take out a student loan — although it was claimed he had been awarded one for £1,685, plus a full grant — because he did not want to get into debt so early in life.

On the second day of the interim hearing at Edinburgh Sheriff Court, Mr Macdonald's solicitor, Martin Burns, rejected his mother's claim that she was struggling to make ends meet on her £45,000 salary as a Scottish Office solicitor.

He said that if Margaret Macdonald, 53, was strapped for cash then she should sell her ten-room home to meet the bills. "If she is worried about maintaining a house of that size, she may wish to consider moving to alternative accommodation," he said.

He also suggested that she could make savings from an "emergency fund" which she dipped into to pay for a summer choral course at Eton for her youngest son who intends to study music professionally. But Mrs Macdonald's solicitor, Jenny Gibbs, said her client wanted to keep the family home to provide some stability for her four other children, for whom she has been the sole provider since her acrimonious divorce in 1994.

Sheriff Daphne Robertson said she would make a written judgment within the next few days on whether Mrs Macdonald should make interim payments pending the full civil hearing next year.

Leading article, page 21



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# Mother fights to keep £1.2m award for birth blunder

By FRANCES GIBB  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A MOTHER awarded compensation of about £300,000 because a health authority failed to warn her that her pregnancy could kill her is fighting to uphold the award after a challenge by the authority.

Mr Justice Auld ruled in May this year that the mother was entitled to claim the full cost of rearing her daughter from Croydon Health Authority. The woman has been diagnosed as suffering from a

potentially deadly heart condition. The decision, reached in the High Court in London, was the first to allow a mother compensation for the cost of rearing a child born from a planned pregnancy. Similar cases in the past have allowed damages for the cost of unwanted children, usually the result of failed sterilisation operations.

But yesterday the ground-breaking award was under attack from Croydon authority, which was ruled liable for compensation. Lawyers for the authority are urging the

Court of Appeal to overturn Mr Justice Auld's decision, claiming he was mistaken in law. Adrian Whitfield, QC, said the 39-year-old mother, a qualified nurse, should not receive a penny towards bringing up her daughter, now almost 8, or for the depression she suffered on learning she was unlikely to survive long enough to see her child grow up.

The High Court had been told that the mother, who cannot be named for legal reasons, had undergone a medical examination ar-

ranged by Croydon Health Authority in 1988 after applying for a post at one of its hospitals.

She was passed fit for work and took up the job, but the doctor who examined her had failed to spot signs that she had primary pulmonary hypertension. The next year the woman, who had previously miscarried twins, and her husband decided to try for another baby.

Their hopes were rewarded but in the later stages of her pregnancy she developed breathlessness so severe

that she had to be flown back from a holiday abroad for hospital treatment. Only then was her heart condition spotted. The mother was told she might not survive the pregnancy because the strain on her heart had exacerbated the condition. If she did survive, she was told, her life expectancy would be between five and ten years.

Although she survived the birth, in November 1989, and her condition had improved to the point that she might live another 20 years, she is still too ill to give her daughter the

care she would have been able to. Her lawyers had argued that she was entitled to the full cost of rearing her daughter, for although she was a wanted baby, her mother would never have allowed herself to become pregnant if she had been warned of her heart condition.

But the authority, while admitting its original medical examination of the mother had been negligent, claims her pregnancy was not a foreseeable loss and that she should not receive damages stemming from it. The hearing continues.

## Search for child goes on despite man being charged

By RUSSELL JENKINS

THE search for a boy who vanished five months ago will go on, despite the court appearance of a man charged with abducting him, detectives said yesterday.

Jamie Lavis, 3, disappeared from his home in Higher Openshaw, Manchester, on Bank Holiday Monday in May. Greater Manchester Police launched an extensive investigation but failed to find the boy. Detectives are now convinced he has been dead for some time.

Darren Vickers, 27, who was arrested on Tuesday at an address in Stockport, appeared at Manchester City Magistrates' Court yesterday accused of kidnapping the child. He was remanded in custody for eight days.

Detective Superintendent Roy Rainford, who is heading the investigation, insisted that the hunt for the missing boy did not stop with the court appearance. "I want to remind everyone that this inquiry has been active for 23 weeks. For the majority of that time it has been conducted as a murder inquiry, and that murder inquiry continues. I would like you to remember that Jamie Lavis has not been seen by family and friends since May 5 this year. I need to find Jamie and so he can be returned to his family and allowed to rest in peace."

Mr Rainford issued a fresh appeal to people to search their memories "even if it means searching their consciences" for fresh information about the boy's whereabouts.

Jamie went missing after he was grounded by his parents for staying out late. Later, security cameras caught him wandering alone on a deserted Piccadilly station platform before catching a bus to Ashton-under-Lyne.

In June, officers combed undergrowth in Boggart Hole Clough park at Blackley after a tip-off that the boy was buried there. Nothing was found.

Jamie's parents have made numerous public appeals for anybody who knows what happened to their son to come forward.

## Doctor tells how he battled to halt baby operations

AN ITALIAN professor said yesterday that he struggled in vain with an indifferent British hospital management to stop surgeons performing operations that were killing babies.

Gianni Angelini told the disciplinary committee of the General Medical Council that he spent nearly 18 months trying to make senior surgeons and the chief executive of the United Bristol Health Care Trust realise that the mortality and morbidity rates among babies having heart operations there were unacceptably high.

"My view was that I was banging my head against a brick wall. I was getting nowhere," he said. Dr Angelini, who was appointed Professor in Anaesthetics at Bristol University in 1992 by the British Heart Foundation, said his task was to set up an academic department of cardiac surgery.

A year later, the honorary consultant at Bristol Royal Infirmary was approached by Stephen Bolsin, consultant anaesthetist, who showed him figures of the death rate among babies given "switch" operations to transfer their great arteries. He found the death rate to be very high and decided to take advice from senior heart surgeons at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in London and Bristol University.

He then discussed what he

Professor says no one took notice of his warnings about number of deaths, writes

Ian Murray

had been told with colleagues, including James Wisheart, 59, the medical director, and Janardan Dhasmana, 57, the consultant surgeon who was carrying out the switch operations. He also saw John Roylance, 67, the chief executive of the trust, on a number of occasions to raise his concerns about the death rate.

All three doctors have denied serious professional misconduct. The two surgeons are charged with continuing to perform cardiac surgery on babies even though they knew that their mortality rates during these operations were well above the national average.

Dr Roylance, as chief executive, is charged with failing to use his authority to stop the operations.

Dr Angelini, 44, said he thought the best way to resolve the problem was to appoint a new paediatric cardiac surgeon, "to bring new blood into the department". He said his various meetings got nowhere.

"My feeling was that Mr Wisheart did not agree with the data, did not agree there was a major problem and certainly did not agree to the appointment of a new cardiac surgeon."

In 1994, as he was still getting nowhere, he called a formal meeting with Dr Roylance taking with him as witness Christopher Monk, the clinical director of anaesthetic services. "Having exhausted all the possible chain of command my next step was to ask the chief executive to use his authority to solve the problem if he was willing to do so. I thought there was a very serious problem. I had figures that showed unacceptably high mortality and morbidity rates."

"I thought there was reason for concern and I wanted Dr Roylance to give some time to those concerns." The meeting did not go well. "The perception I had was that there wasn't a great deal of interest from Dr Roylance, rather a considerable degree of irritation."

Again nothing happened, so he saw the chairman of the hospital trust who asked him to work with another Bristol University professor, John Vann Jones, to draw up a report.

This warned that paediatric heart surgery at the trust needed a major shake-up.

The hearing continues on Monday.



Deborah Eappen, mother of baby Matthew, being cross-examined by Andrew Good, the lead defence lawyer

## Au pair 'hated dead boy's parents'

By TUNKU VARADARAJAN

LOUISE WOODWARD, the British au pair charged with murdering a nine-month-old boy in her care, "hated" the baby's parents and thought that Matthew Eappen and his two-year-old brother were "spoilt brats", the court in Cambridge, Massachusetts, was told yesterday.

Kathleen Sorabella, who spoke to Miss Woodward regularly in a Boston theatre queue for return tickets to the musical *Rent*, said that Miss Woodward told her that she intensely disliked working at the home of Sunil and Deborah Eappen, the parents of Matthew. Mrs Sorabella, 30,

who befriended Miss Woodward in the queue for *Rent*, which she had seen 40 times and Miss Woodward more than 40, described her first conversation with the au pair. "She said that the parents were very demanding, that she didn't like them. They told her that they had a curfew and she didn't like that."

The witness, who is a mature student at a Boston college, continued: "She said she was tired all day, that she'd change a diaper in the morning and then leave them in it all day. She said she'd go to sleep during the day." Mrs Sorabella continued: "She

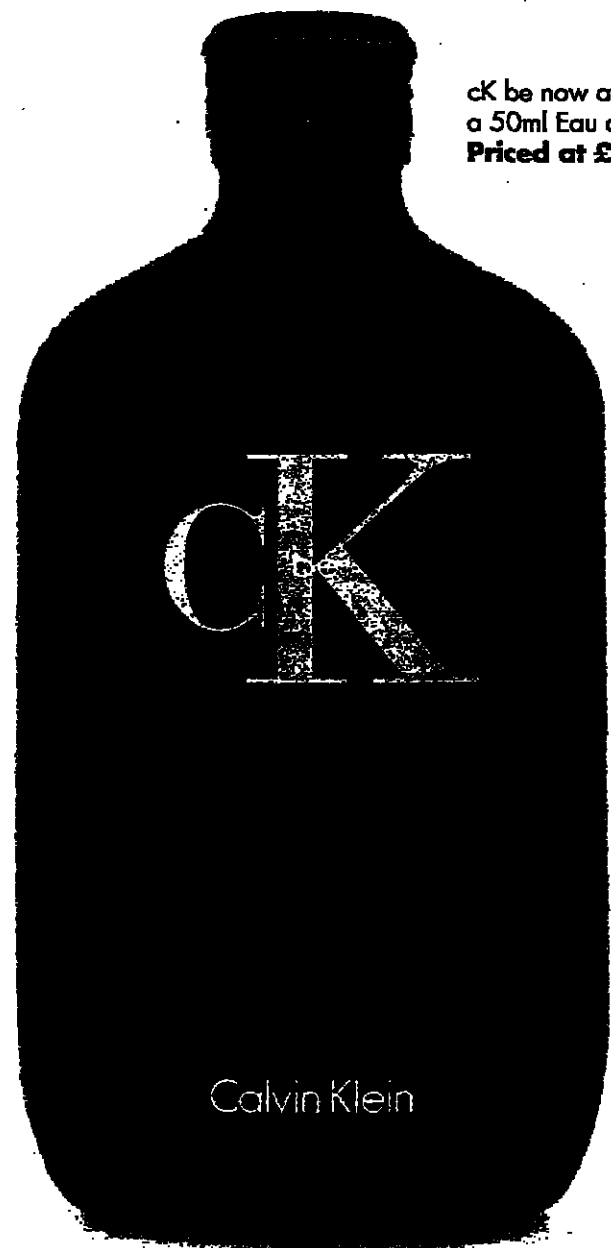
hated it ... the job. She referred to the baby as a brat. She called the boys spoilt, fussy." Later, under cross-examination, she said: "I can't recall if she hated the children. But she definitely hated the parents."

Andrew Good, Miss Woodward's defence attorney, who had earlier looked ill at ease when cross-examining Matthew's mother, called into question Mrs Sorabella's reliability as a witness. Mrs Sorabella had a "history of misrepresentation", he said. He cited as examples "deliberate misstatements" she had made in a car leasing firm.

During the earlier cross-examination of Mrs Eappen, an apparent contradiction emerged in the statements made to police by Miss Woodward — in which she said she had treated Matthew "a little roughly" and that he may have hit his head on the side of the bath — and the explanation Mrs Eappen said Miss Woodward had given over the telephone after the boy had been admitted to hospital. According to Mrs Eappen, Miss Woodward had assured her that Matthew had "not hit his head against anything".

The trial continues.

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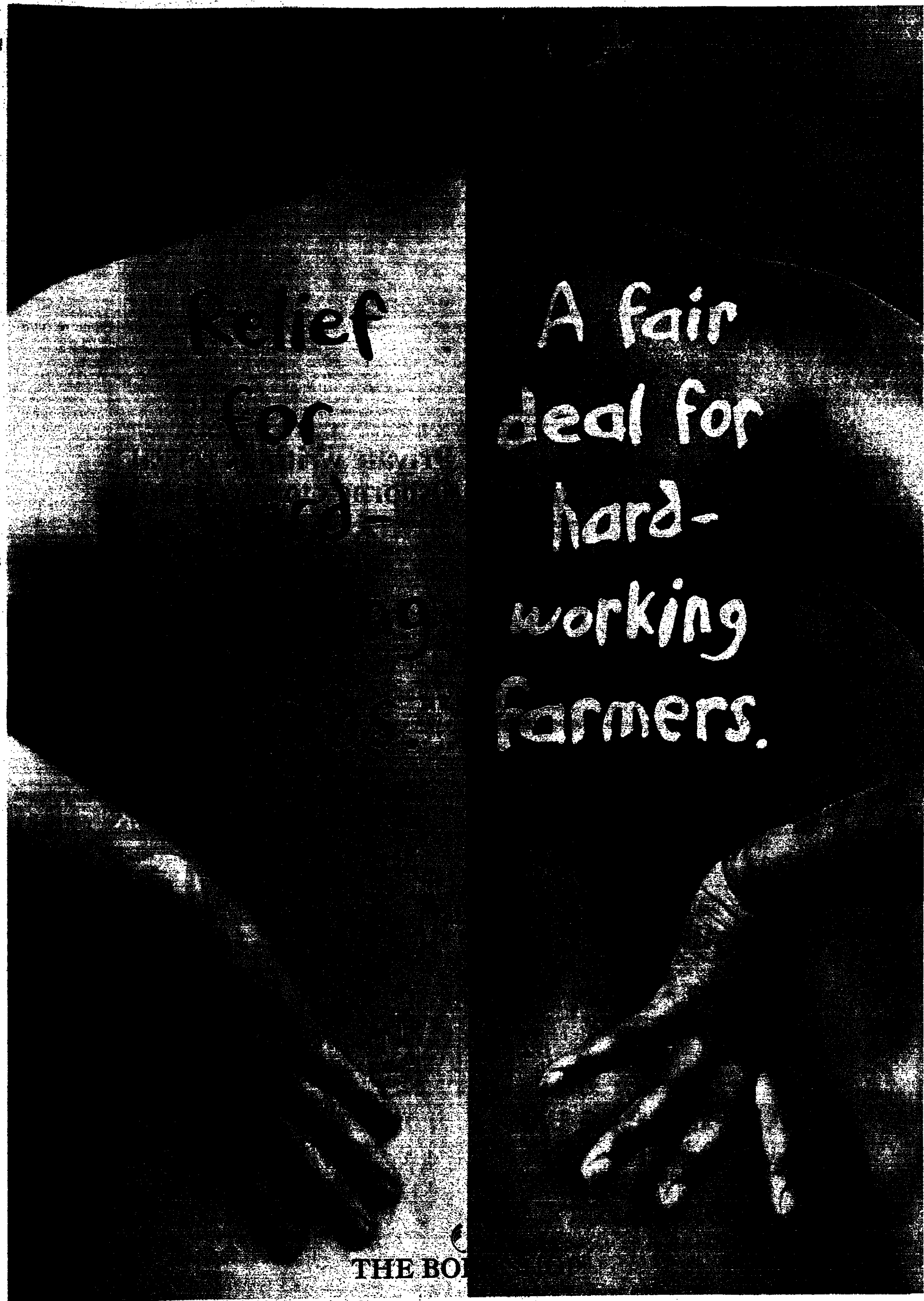


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## Unknown author is paid record £420,000

Dalya Alberge on a writer's happy ending at the Frankfurt Bookfair

AN UNKNOWN British writer has been awarded what is claimed to be a record £420,000 advance for a first or second novel.

Robert Mawson, 41, a former pilot, who two weeks ago was resigned to signing on the dole, was offered the sum for his second book, *The Lazarus Child*, a thriller about a battle to save a child in a coma.

The bidding had started at £50,000 with various publishers competing. Patrick Janson-Smith, of Transworld's Bantam Press, was then so determined to acquire it that he doorknocked Mr Mawson's agent, Christopher Little, and made the offer. The previous record advance, of £357,000,

also from Transworld, was for Nicholas Evans's *The Horse Whisperer*, now being made into a film starring Robert Redford.

Mr Little says that the sales of book rights throughout the world will take Mr Mawson's total earnings up to £2 million. Bantam in America has paid \$1.4 million (£870,000) and Bertelsmann in Germany 1.65 million marks (£500,000). Other European publishers have also made offers.

Mr Mawson, who describes himself as an "obsessive writer", went to France to work on *The Lazarus Child* in 1995 after selling his share in a PR and advertising company. On returning to Britain he was



A few dollars more: Robert Mawson, whose book *The Lazarus Child* has sold in the US alone for \$1.4 million

unemployed. His first novel, published in 1994 by Little, Brown for a "minuscule" advance, was called *A Ship Called Hope* and sold only 2,600. The deal on his second book is, Mr Mawson says, "beyond his wildest dreams". His first purchase would be a new word processor, as the

last one blew up while printing out his manuscript. He says he would also be able to rent a place of his own and would abandon his claim for a council-tax rebate.

Mr Janson-Smith says that *The Lazarus Child* "rattles along like an express train. It's like watching a movie. You're

so bound up in all the characters. You want to keep turning the pages." Hollywood studios have already been in touch.

Mark Fisher, the Arts Minister, yesterday expressed sympathy for British publishers and booksellers who felt that their business was being threatened by sales on the

Internet. "The root lies in copyright," Mr Fisher, who was visiting the Frankfurt Book Fair, said. "The problem was the conflict between access and intellectual property," he added. The Publishers Association, which co-ordinated his trip, is taking legal advice on Internet sales.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Families make plea for bodies

The families of four men lost when a fishing boat sank asked Glenda Jackson, the Shipping Minister, to help them to retrieve the bodies. Relatives of the crew of the *Seagull*, from Porthcawl, Aberystwyth, told her in an open letter: "No one has the ability to bring our loved ones back in this life, but you do have the power to make the attempt to bring them home. We would ask you to do so now."

Under a legal anomaly, the marine accident investigators probing the cause of the sinking have no responsibility to recover the bodies.

## Ethnic recruiting

The RAF and the Royal Navy are expected to seek recruitment of more people from ethnic minorities. Lord Gilbert, a Defence minister, told the Lords that the two Services hoped to learn from the lead being given by the Army.

## Girls admitted

Girls are to be admitted into one of the country's oldest boys' schools. From next September, girls will be able to study for A-levels at Colchester Royal Grammar School, Essex, which was founded under Henry VIII.

## Egrets wade in

Five pairs of little egrets have become what are believed to be the first of their species to nest in Britain. The wading birds, similar to small herons, have been spotted on Brownsea Island in Poole harbour.

## Devon quakes

An earthquake measuring 2.3 on the Richter scale shook Devon, the largest in the area for 12 years. The epicentre was Tottum and tremors were felt 15 miles away. Up to 30 quakes of that size occur in Britain every year.

## Reptile on loose

The RSPCA fears that a 10-year-old crocodile, a tropical reptile similar to an alligator, has escaped from a private collector's house. The crocodile, named "Croc", was seen at Pulborough, West Sussex, is believed to have been abandoned.

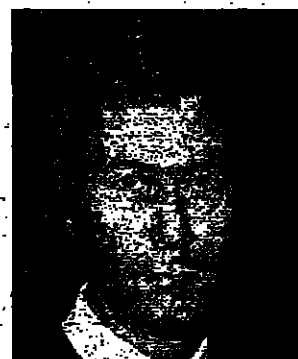
## Private writings reveal Osborne's tortured soul

By DALYA ALBERGE  
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

FAR from being a confident and scathing iconoclast, the dramatist John Osborne was a deeply sensitive individual who suffered terrible feelings of failure.

The sensitive side of the original Angry Young Man will be revealed through notebooks and letters which his widow is allowing the world to read for the first time. The writer John Helliwell, who has been given access, says they offer a "window to his soul".

The material mostly appears in 50 exercise books, which he apparently turned to "only in times of despair. They reveal the 'black cloud' that hovered over the life of the man who wrote *Look Back in Anger*, the 1956 play that condemned middle-class smugness and changed the



Osborne suffered long periods of self-doubt

course of British theatre. Mr Helliwell said the writings would perhaps show him to be "more likeable man than biographies and even his autobiography have suggested. As a class once observed, Osborne (1929-94) raised grudge-bearing to an art form. Biographers have painted the

writer of *The Entertainer* and *Inadmissible Evidence* as a prickly, hard-drinking womaniser. He likened his fourth wife, Jill Bennett, to Hitler and fired off poison-pen letters to critics.

But Mr Helliwell said the notebooks showed a different man. The contract for the book was revealed by the agent David Chaffant at the Frankfurt Book Fair. It will be published by Chatto and Windus.

Osborne's widow, Helen, was the playwright's fifth wife. Yesterday, she recalled that it had been impossible to cheer him up when he was down. "You learnt to live with it. It was what the Elizabethans called melancholia," she said. She gently believed he was a failure and could not be convinced otherwise. "I think it's common with writers — or good writers."

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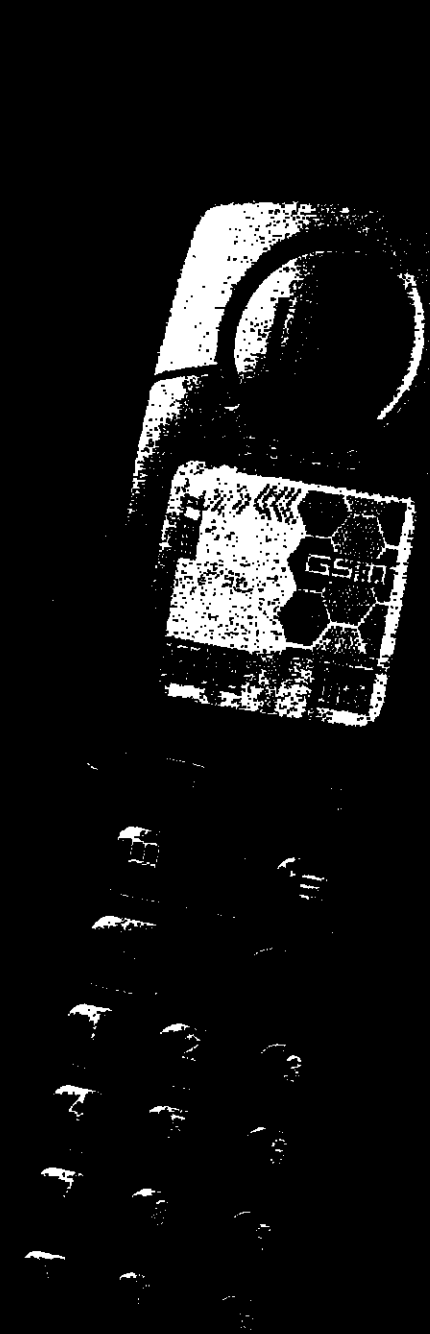
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# Irish favourite keeps brains under wraps

TWO weeks from today, a little-known Belfast law professor is expected to become Ireland's first northern President after one of the republic's more curious elections.

Mary McAleese, the 46-year-old Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Queen's University, can stand for the Irish presidency but may not vote, as she lives outside the republic. If elected, she would need the Government's permission to go home, as it would involve leaving the country. In addition, because the presidency is strictly above politics — its only real powers being to refer legislation to the Supreme Court or to refuse to dissolve the Dail — the campaign is issue-free. It is similar to having an election for the Queen of England.

The only hint of controversy has been a rival's charge that Dr McAleese is a covert Sinn Féin sympathiser. She has dismissed this as nonsense but could have done without an unsolicited endorsement from Gerry Adams yesterday.

There are four women candidates and one male. Unable to promise tax cuts or better

A Belfast professor is likely to win the presidential race that has become a beauty contest, says Martin Fletcher

schools, each is vying to prove that she or he is the spiritual successor of the caring, sharing, all-embracing Mary Robinson. It is a campaign filled with buzzwords such as "compassion", "openness" and "reaching out".

It has become a glorified beauty contest, almost literally. Many column inches have been devoted to the candidates' wardrobes and hair-styles, and my Dublin taxi driver planned to vote for Dr McAleese because "she's the best-looking bird".

Dr McAleese is certainly a striking figure, but it is her formidable intellect that has propelled her from a Roman Catholic ghetto in Belfast to the brink of Ireland's presidency. She is the eldest of nine children and a publican's daughter.

She studied law at Queen's and, at the age of 24, succeeded Mrs Robinson as Reid Professor of Criminal Law at Trinity College, Dublin. She married, had three children, worked briefly as an RTE television presenter, then shocked Ulster's Protestant establishment by beating David Trimble, now the Ulster Unionist Party leader, for the directorship of the Institute of Professional Legal Studies at Queen's.

Last month, in an even greater shock, Ireland's ruling Fianna Fail party ditched Albert Reynolds, the former Taoiseach, and gave its presidential nomination to the much more dynamic Dr McAleese. She was not even a party member.

Dr McAleese is a woman of strong convictions. She is a staunch anti-abortion Catholic and an enthusiastic national-

ist whose critics call her combative and abrasive. None of those attributes was on display during a day spent hurrying round the pretty market towns of Tipperary this week. Her intellect has, as one commentator put it, been put on "work to rule".

She celebrated World Rural Women's Day at an agricultural development centre, lunched at a police training school, toured workshops for disadvantaged youth and the mentally handicapped, and addressed a crowd in the square at Thurles and a rally at a traditional Irish arts community in Cashel. She promised a cool head and warm heart, an Ireland in which every person is "utterly valued and utterly respected", and a presidency that reflected a confident new Ireland rooted in traditional values.

Dr McAleese's rivals are no laggards when it comes to caring and compassion. Mary Banotti, the 58-year-old single mother who is the Fine Gael candidate, was a nurse in North America and Africa before becoming an MEP and



Mary McAleese, left, talks to Dilly Barry, right, in a shop at Thurles during her whistle-stop tour of Tipperary

champion of good causes. She is the grand-niece of Michael Collins, the legendary father of the IRA, which gives her a certain cachet.

Adi Roche, the 42-year-old Labour candidate, is known as the Angel of Chernobyl for her pioneering work as head of the Chernobyl Children's Project.

Her campaign began poorly when some employees labelled her management style as Stalinist.

Rosemary Brown, who as Dana won the 1970 Eurovision Song Contest, is the champion of American-style family values. Her manifesto promises that as President she would

"still be Dana, wife and mother, one of the people standing for the people".

Derek Nally, an independent who will presumably win the misogynist vote by default, is a former police officer who exposed wrongdoing in the Garda and founded a group called Victim Support.

Dr McAleese's northernness does not seem to worry Irish voters, although some Unionists would see her election as threatening. The latest Irish Times poll gives her 32 per cent support, eight points more than Mary Banotti, with the three others far behind.

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## Killing uncovers Dublin trade in black prostitutes

BY AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

IRISH police are clamping down on a growing trade in black prostitutes coming from Britain to offer erotica to Irishmen.

Asian and African women from Britain are being set up in Dublin city-centre apartments and men, attracted by small ads for "black beauties" and "Asian delights" are paying up to £150 an hour for their services, six times more than they would for an Irish prostitute.

The extent of the vice trade was unknown until the murder of Belinda Pereira, whose inquest was adjourned in Dublin yesterday.

Ms Pereira, 27, was one of a growing number of British prostitutes travelling to Dublin twice or three times a month to cash in on the city's boom in weekend tourism. It is believed that she was on her second trip to the Irish capital when she was bludgeoned to death last Christmas. Originally from Sri Lanka, her dark features would command high prices in Dublin.

The police believe that about ten Irishmen are organising the trade, with more than 100 women regularly travelling from Britain.

Ms Pereira and a friend became involved in the trade after answering an advertisement placed in a London magazine.

The Gardaí first suspected that Ms Pereira, from Morden, South London, had been murdered by her pimp, a 31-year-old man from Tipperary, but they now believe it was a frenzied attack by a client. They admit they have few clues about her killer.

One senior source said: "It is very difficult because these women want to leave as few traces as possible. They come over here, work for a week, then vanish. They go home, have a rest and come back again. The only people they know are their pimps and the other English women doing the same thing."

The Gardaí are still interviewing British and Irish prostitutes to try to trace men with a history of violence against prostitutes, an increasing number of whom are drug addicts. Surveys show, however, that only about 40 per cent of the estimated 600 prostitutes working in Dublin report violence or threats by clients, rendering it likely that the killer will never be found.

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# Labour must put national need before party interests

The Blair Government is challenging the traditional workings of Whitehall in ways that Margaret Thatcher never did. That tension underlies the simmering discontent among many senior civil servants about the way policy is made and presented.

The departure of eight heads of information since the election is a symptom of this malaise, but it is only part of a broader story. Labour came into office determined to implement the same tight discipline that it applied so successfully in opposition.

That involved a closed style of policymaking in which decisions were taken by a tight circle round the offices of Tony Blair and Gordon Brown. Other spokesmen were in-

cluded when necessary. New policy initiatives were leaked/floated, often on an unattributable and thus deniable basis, without any real collective discussion. These habits have been transferred to office.

The culture of government is different, relying on deliberation, consultation and acceptance that Parliament should be informed first. So Whitehall eyebrows have been raised when—as was shown in the television documentary about Mr Brown and the Treasury ten days ago—policy is decided by a small, largely political group and selected journalists are briefed on the details.

Some permanent secretaries have complained about the recent leaking to Sunday newspapers of the proposed "line" on the Defence Minis-

## RIDDELL ON POLITICS

try and transfer of the money to the NHS budget.

That is more important than the friction with information officers, where the arguments are mixed. Labour's complaint that many information officers had become too passive and reactive is partly justified.

Some became worn down by the battles of the late Major years, leaving Tory ministers exposed. Alastair Campbell was right to argue recently that heads of information should be involved from the start in the development and design of policy.

Some heads of information had been long-serving and, in some cases, long in the tooth. So changes were inevitable, indeed desirable. But eight departures is more than a coincidence.

Jonathan Haslam, in Downing Street for the end of the Major era and at the Education Department since the election, was at pains yesterday to stress his good relations with David Blunkett and the attractions of his new job in the City. But in other cases there have been personality clashes as ministers and advisers have openly criticised press officers.

Problems have emerged over the dividing line between Government and party, between the fair and impartial presentation of policy and advancing Labour's interests. Some ministers and their advisers, whose only experience has been in opposition, seem unaware of this distinction and have expected press officers to operate as Labour's press officers to operate as Labour's press officers to operate as Labour's press officers.

In the past, an informal division of labour has existed between the Government Information Service explaining decisions and special advisers to ministers providing the partisan "spin" which civil servants cannot and should not do.

The lines can never be precise and it makes sense for Mr Campbell and others in Downing Street to become special advisers rather than civil servants, as their predecessors were.

Sir Robin Butler, the outgoing head of the Home Civil Service, has set up a review on the work of information officers, and the issue should be examined by the Public Administration Committee of the Commons, which is shortly to decide its programme. A new concordat is needed if charges of politicisation are to be answered.

After complaining for so long about the way the Tories ran Whitehall, Labour needs to understand that the interests of Government and party are not always the same. The job of civil servants is to ensure that the Government is successful, not that Labour is re-elected.

PETER RIDDELL

## Writing on wall for Whitehall press machine

Angry ministers are giving civil servants a rough ride over their publicity failures, writes Andrew Pierce

WITHIN hours of Tony Blair's new Cabinet ministers taking up office a purge of the upper echelons of the Whitehall information service was inevitable. The Prime Minister's publicity-hungry lieutenants had a rude awakening from the election victory.

They had anticipated a seamless transition to the front pages of the media and for their first ministerial pronouncements. It was not to be.

They protested bitterly, privately and increasingly publicly, about the Government Information Service which for two decades had worked in relative harmony with the previous Tory administrations.

The Labour Party in Opposition regarded the Tories' public relations operation with contempt. On May 2 they discovered why it was so poor.

The first to complain was Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, who called this Whitehall press team together after one dismal press conference. He bawled them out and complained he had never been so badly prepared. In Harriet Harman's south London home, Sunday morning breakfast became an unhappy experience as stories which the Social Security Secretary felt she should have featured in or at least known about were spread over the front pages.

It was a far cry from Opposition. At the first scent of trouble the media monitoring unit at Millbank Tower, the fiefdom of Peter Mandelson, Labour's high priest of

spin, would alert the party leadership. Each Shadow Cabinet member would be paged. The politician most involved would be tracked down, told the line to take, and what to expect in the first editions of daily or Sunday newspapers.

In Government the early warning system failed to operate. Ministers complained about being telephoned by journalists for reactions to stories they had not been told were breaking. Used to being

‘The unit has been dubbed the Ministry of Truth by sceptical civil servants’

told in advance who was on lunchtime news programmes, they despaired at discovering the briefing note in their red boxes when they returned home the same night—often 12 hours later.

The first to fall foul of the new regime was Andy Wood, the veteran director of information at the Northern Ireland Office who modelled himself on Bernard Ingham, Margaret Thatcher's press secretary.

Mr Wood compounded his sins in the eyes of the new administration by going on holiday during the Loyalist

marching season. He was told bluntly: ‘There is a lack of personal chemistry with Dr Mowlam [Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary].’ Mr Wood, a veteran of 14 years for the NIO, was given gardening leave.

Liz Drummond, the veteran head of the Scottish Office, was also an early casualty. Relations had never been good with Michael Forsyth, the Tory incumbent, but her hopes of a renaissance under the new administration rapidly evaporated.

Ms Drummond clashed with Brian Wilson, the minister of state, a journalist by profession, who insisted on writing all his own press releases.

She complained bitterly to journalists that she could not reveal policy decisions without first referring to Downing Street. She took the flak for the initial bumpy ride for the ‘Yes-Yes’ campaign for the Scottish Parliament.

By the end of the first month in office an unofficial war had been declared and ministers had resorted to their old habits. They turned each day to a daily bulletin prepared by Labour's monitoring unit, which charted daily presentation of policy in the media.

At the Treasury, which in the eyes of Downing Street is one of the few ministries to function properly, Jill Rutter, a mainstream civil servant who worked with John Major when he was Chief Secretary, moved back to policy work.

Much of her job was taken by Charlie Whelan, who was



Alastair Campbell's media strategy has caused problems for civil servants such as Jonathan Haslam, right



Mr Brown's personal press officer in Opposition. She made little attempt to conceal her feelings at her leaving party when she declared: ‘Just like the Princess of Wales this marriage was getting a little crowded.’

By the beginning of July anonymous briefings began to appear in the media about ministerial disillusionment with the GUS. Mike Granatt, its head told a meeting of department heads that a drastic action was needed to counter the impression that they were not matching the skills of the Millbank army.

It came two weeks later. Whitehall was ordered to set up a media monitoring unit modelled on Labour's slick public relations operation. In a ground-breaking initiative press officers seconded from each government department

would work in a team to record, analyse and, if necessary, rebut almost every item of news about policy in the media.

The unit has been dubbed the Ministry of Truth by sceptical civil servants. It will be operational by the end of the month. Mr Granatt, is officially in charge, but Mr Blair's chief press adviser Alastair Campbell is taking a keen interest. It was another famous victory for the Labour propaganda team.

But still the purge continued. In the same week it was disclosed that the information department at the Ministry of Defence was being restructured. Gill Samuel the head for five years was moved internally. It emerged days later that George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, had complained bitterly to col-

leagues and Labour officials that he had become the ‘forgotten man of British politics’.

Jean Caines, who was deputy press secretary at Downing Street under Bernard Ingham, is taking early retirement from the Department of Trade and Industry after falling out with Nigel Griffiths, the Consumer Affairs Minister, when he failed to answer with sufficient vigour and rigour charges levelled by the DTI about his shareholdings which forced him to withdraw from a Government inquiry.

One of the most bitter departures was Steve Reardon, director of information at Social Security for 10 years, who was told Ms Harman had lost confidence in him. His exit came days after the press was briefed by her officials that she intended to take the full Cabinet minis-

ter's pay rise last month. But halfway through the night Ms Harman changed her mind. He went within days.

At the end of September Mr Campbell vented the frustration of Cabinet ministers in a letter circulated to all Whitehall press offices. It was typically blunt warning to ‘raise their game’.

Jonathan Haslam became the biggest fish to fall foul of the new regime yesterday after a clash with Stephen Byers, the Minister for School Standards. Many of the ones who have gone, or the others who fear they could be next, envy Richard Lehnert a chief press officer at the Welsh office, who was close to William Hague when he was Welsh Secretary and moved on at the election. He saw the writing on the wall and quit before he was pushed.

## Ethics watchdog a veteran of press conduct

By VALERIE ELLIOTT  
WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE appointment yesterday of Sir Patrick Neill, QC, to succeed Lord Nolan as the public standards watchdog, marked the end of a determined search to find a prominent legal figure who was independent of party politics.

It is understood that his name was put forward by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg. Sir Patrick, who will become a life peer, will receive £500 a day for the post as chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life. He expects to work two or three days a week over 40 weeks.

Sir Patrick has spoken out against the growing power of the European Court of Justice, but his Eurosceptic views were deemed irrelevant to the post. He has tasted controversy: during his chairmanship of the Press Council he was accused by the late Sir James Goldsmith, in an open letter to 120 MPs, of impugning the impartiality of the council.

Sir James claimed that the council had decided in favour of a Granada employee who worked on *World in Action* at a time when Sir Patrick had represented the television company and programme in a legal action.

A devout Anglican and family man, Sir Patrick has been married to Caroline for 43 years and they had six children. One, Matthew, a barrister in his 20s, was killed in a car crash four years ago.

Sir Patrick was the first chairman of the Council for the Securities Industry and was asked by Margaret Thatcher to lead an inquiry into regulation at Lloyd's.

He is an independent director of Times Newspaper Holdings.



Sir Patrick: lawyer and churchman

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# RSPCA demands ban on use of deadly driftnets

THE RSPCA called yesterday for a ban on the use of driftnets by British fishermen, saying that they were devastating marine life. Species of dolphin, whales, leatherback turtles and blue shark were among those being brought close to extinction by the nets, which trapped fish by their gills and left them to die, it said.

**Dolphins and whales are among species devastated by 'barbaric' practice, reports Kathryn Knight**

While most European countries have banned driftnets, Britain, Ireland and France still use them in the northeast Atlantic, Baltic and Mediterranean to catch tuna and swordfish. The RSPCA wants a full ban before the start of the fishing season next year.

At the launch of an RSPCA report on driftnets, John Baker, a marine expert from Liverpool University, said that the fish died slow and agonising deaths, while those that escaped lived with terrible injuries or were doomed to an eventual lingering death.

"They die from a process known as dry drowning. Their larynx closes so they are unable to inhale water, and asphyxiate. It can take hours before death occurs, especially with larger species," Dr Baker said.

"We know they often struggle violently, from the amount of net that gets caught round their bodies, which can result in terrible injuries. We have

seen dolphin and other fish with broken bones, broken beaks and severe cuts to their head, flippers and dorsal fin. "Those who escape live with the lingering pain of these terrible injuries. If we could see this taking place in front of our eyes, such a method of slaughter would be considered barbaric torture."

Helen McLachlan, senior wildlife officer for the RSPCA, said that while the length of driftnets had been restricted to 2.5 kilometres since 1992, this was enough to devastate the marine population. "Only total prohibition is the answer," she said.

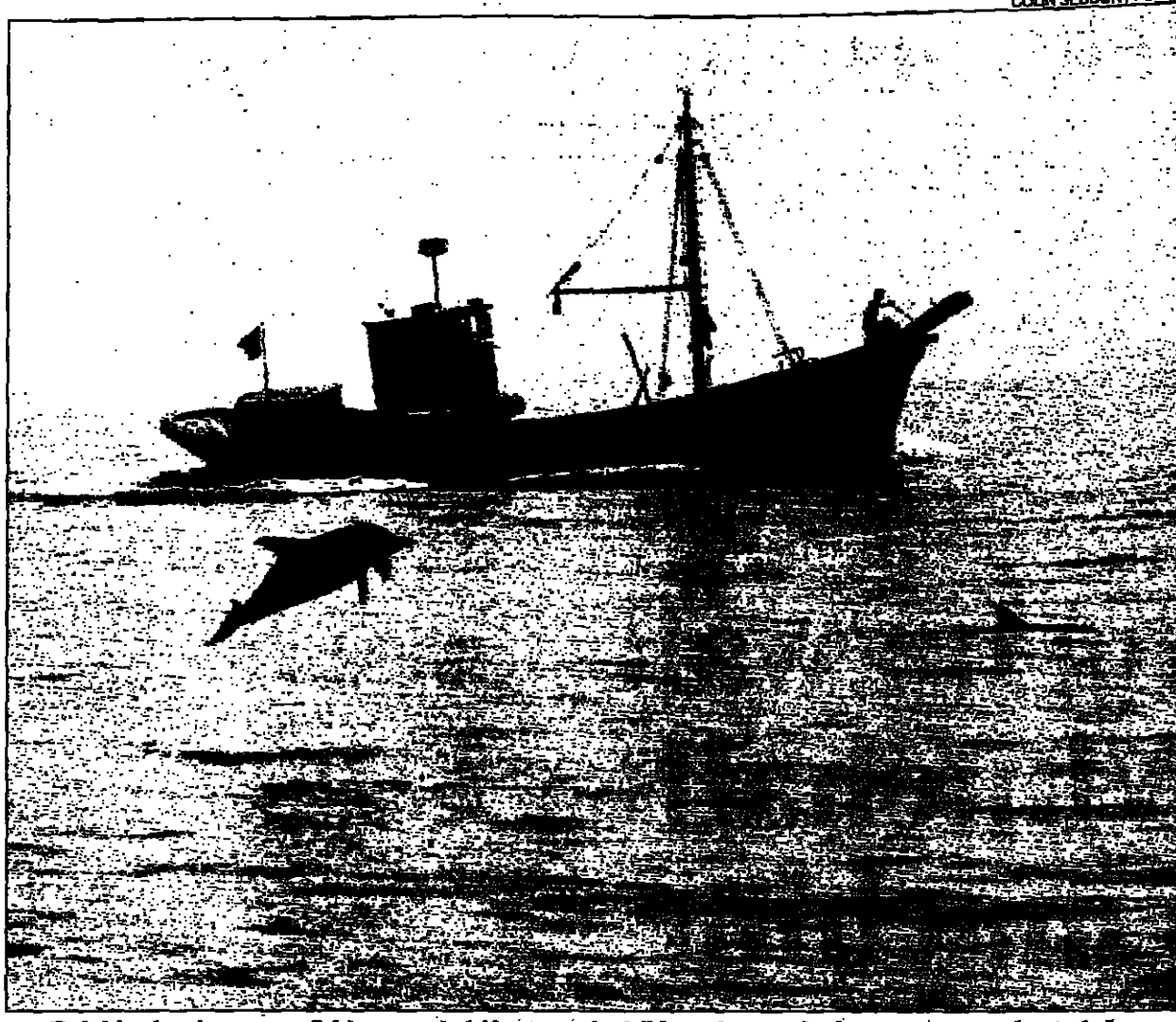
Driftnets, known as "walls of death", are placed near the surface to catch fish found in the open seas, such as herring, mackerel and pilchard. The synthetic material used means the nets are invisible to other marine life too. Independent

studies of British and French driftnet vessels showed that dolphins and porpoises were being caught in potentially unsustainable numbers.

Research on more than 27 per cent of the French fleet revealed they had caught 48 species unintentionally, including five types of whale, four species of dolphin and two species of turtle.

"It is devastating in terms of environmental welfare," Ms McLachlan said. "The striped dolphin, which lives in the northeast Atlantic, is threatened with extinction if driftnetting continues."

She agreed that fishermen would have to be compensated but said there were more targeted methods that could prove more economic. The launch of the report was attended by the Labour MP Ian Cawsey, who has asked the Fisheries Minister Elliot Morley to support a ban when European counterparts meet this month.



Dolphins leaping near a fishing vessel: driftnets are invisible to them and other creatures, such as whales

## Rare sea anemone becomes extinct

By Nick Nuttall  
ENVIRONMENT  
CORRESPONDENT

A TINY British sea anemone, found in only one location, has been declared extinct by conservationists. Ivel's sea anemone was discovered in Wide Water lagoon, Shoreham, West Sussex, in 1973 by Richard Ivel, a zoology student at Oxford University who was studying shellfish.

It was declared a new species by Richard Manuel, also of Oxford, in the *Journal of Natural History* in 1975. But a thorough survey carried out in September by Robert Irving, a consultant marine biologist for the World Wide Fund for Nature, has failed to find any trace of it.

Callum Rankine, habitats and species officer for WWF, said yesterday: "This is a sad day for British conservation, it does not bode well for the future to lose such a rare species."

The survey of the lagoon was carried out as part of the Government's Biodiversity Challenge to conserve wildlife.

## Coral reefs being ruined by sewage and over-fishing

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

HUMAN activity is destroying coral reefs all over the world, the first global survey has shown.

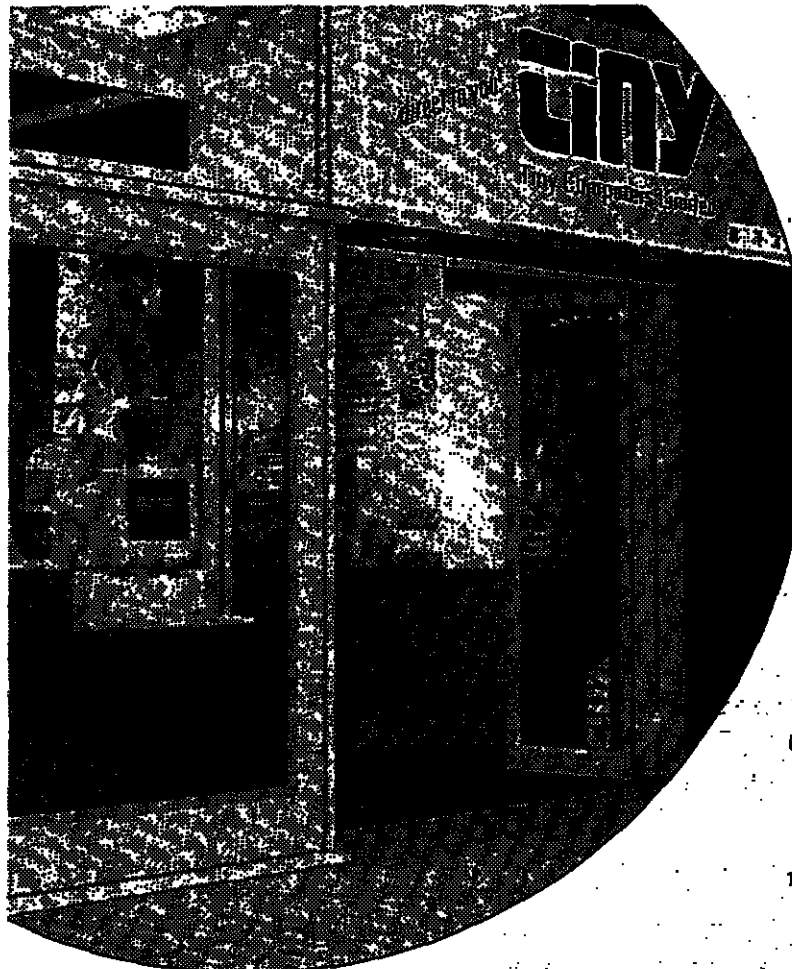
Once-common species such as lobsters are now rare, while edible cucumbers and fish such as groupers are also declining. Many reefs show evidence of damage, with broken coral and the growth of algae fed by sewage.

The survey was carried out by 100 marine scientists and 750 recreational divers, who surveyed more than 250 reefs in 30 countries between June 15 and August 31 this year. The divers were asked to look out for easily-recognisable species such as the lobster or the humpback wrasse, to give an indication of the effect of fishing.

First results of the study, Reef Check 1997, show that lobsters, once abundant on reefs throughout the world,

were absent from 81 per cent of the reefs studied. From 179 reefs in the Indian and Pacific oceans, only 25 lobsters were found, and 11 of those were at a single reef in an Indonesian marine reserve.

Elizabeth Wood of the Marine Conservation Society said that no lobsters were found in the Seychelles. "Valuable shells such as the giant triton have also been over-collected as souvenirs." The results of the project were released yesterday at a Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. Gregor Hodgson, the co-ordinator, said: "Coral reefs are the rainforests of the sea. They are... a storehouse of billions of dollars worth of genetic material for drugs and an important factor in coastal protection. They are a tourist attraction for seven million sport divers and a source of food."



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## Turkey accused after air scare

Nicosia: Athens accused Turkey of Cold War tactics yesterday after a military transport plane carrying the Greek Defence Minister was buzzed by Turkish warplanes over the Aegean for the second time in three days. (Michael Theodorou writes). Akis Tsohatzopoulos was on his way to Crete from Cyprus where he had been watching over joint war games by Greek and Greek Cypriot forces which Turkey had branded a "provocation".

## Jews held in inquiry on bomb supply to Arabs

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

TEN Jewish residents of Jerusalem have been arrested for allegedly supplying explosives to Palestinians for use in terrorist attacks against Jewish targets in Israel and the occupied territories.

Israeli security sources said that the case was one of the biggest of its kind in which a ring of Jews had been found apparently supplying weaponry to Palestinian extremists to enable them to continue their terror campaign designed to sabotage the 1993 Israeli-Palestinian peace accord.

A Palestinian journalist from the occupied West Bank, who asked not to be identified, said last night: "This case is just the tip of the iceberg. It is common knowledge in the West Bank and Gaza Strip that a great many of the weapons used by Hamas and other militant Palestinian groups are acquired from Jews — either on the criminal black-market or from ordinary soldiers who want to make a quick buck."

The journalist added: "The Israelis have far greater access to weaponry than the Palestinians and many of those who sell to the Arabs do not care what it is going to be used for as long as they get their money. Common items such as an AK47 assault rifle or a pound of

explosive have a going price which is widely known." Israelis enjoying the first day of the eight-day Feast of Tabernacles — the annual religious holiday commemorating the 40 years spent in the wilderness by the Jews after their exodus from Egypt — were shocked when news of the police round-up of the Jewish suspects was broadcast by Israeli radio.

The radio disclosed that the ten unnamed Jews being held had been arrested on charges of supplying high explosives and detonators, used legally in construction work in quarries, to what the report described as "hostile elements".

The radio report said that when the suspects were arrested they were in possession of a haul of 440lb of explosives, 55 detonators and large quantities of detonator caps, which it is alleged they were preparing to sell to Palestinians, who were not publicly identified.

Police investigators believe that the ring sold explosives obtained from quarries both inside Israel and in the West Bank to Palestinians in the occupied territories.

They are linking the arrests of the suspected Jewish arms dealers with a haul of explosives made last week just before the onset of Yom Kippur, the annual holy Jewish Day of

Atonement, when two Palestinians from the West Bank city of Hebron were arrested in a car carrying 110lb of hidden explosives, 25 detonators and 15 yards of fuse.

The last arrest of the two Arabs, caught after a car chase and named as Abdul Abu Sneineh, 36, and Yassin Abu Hadid, 23, was one cause of a maximum terrorist alert sounded throughout Israel and the occupied territories over the Yom Kippur period.

One high-ranking police officer told the Yediot Aharonot daily newspaper after military censorship that had been imposed on reporting of the car find was lifted: "The two Palestinians had in their possession an amount of explosives that could have sent the Dizengoff Centre [Tel Aviv's main indoor shopping arcade] sky-high."

The alleged uncovering of such a significant Jewish-run arms-supply ring has posed a serious problem for the Israeli prison authorities if the arrested men should receive long sentences.

"They could hardly put them inside with Palestinian terrorists," the Palestinian journalist said. "And if they put them among ordinary Israeli criminals, they would probably be torn limb from limb."



Two Jews handcuffed after their arrest on charges of selling explosives to Palestinians

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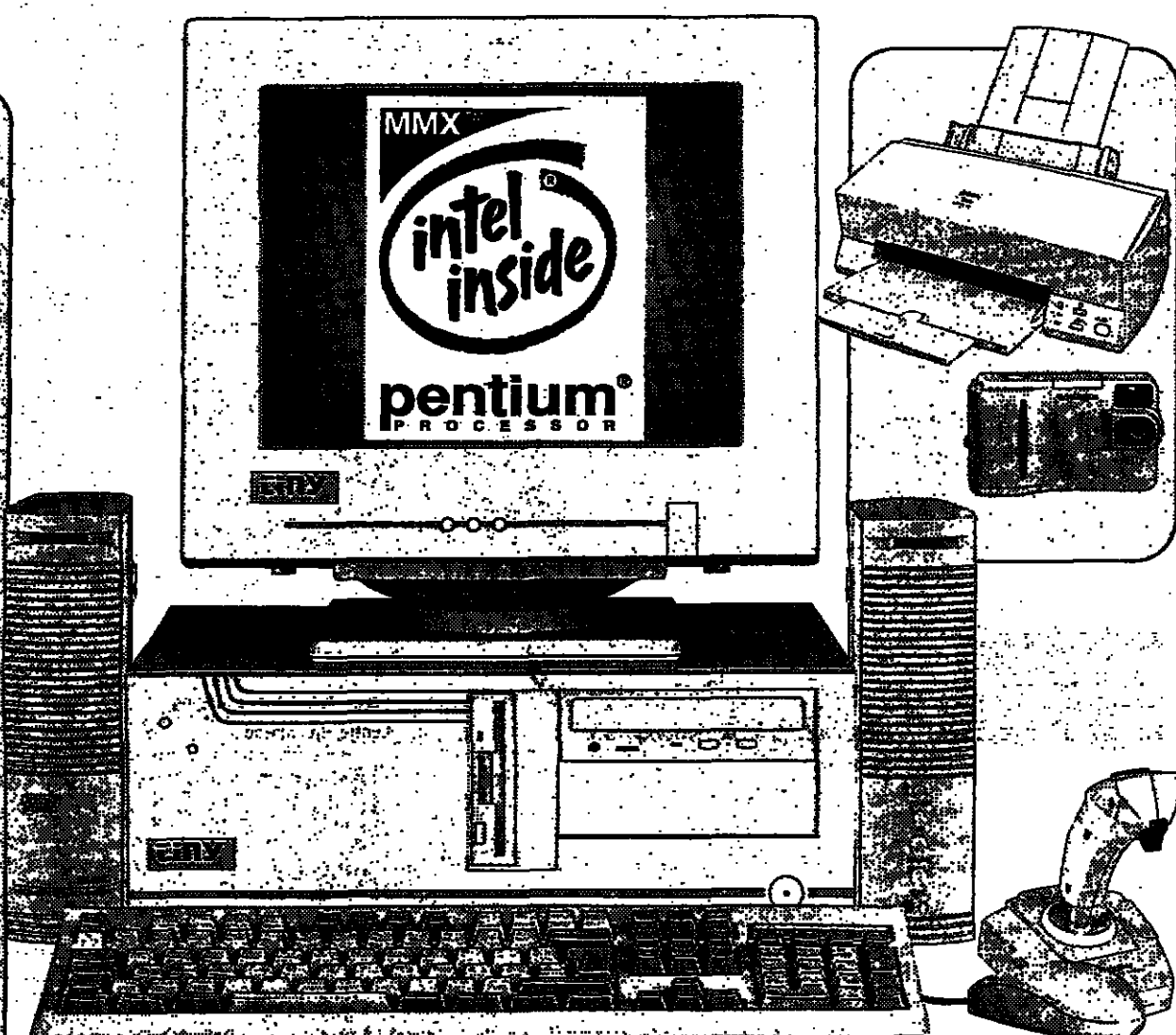
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## Greer claims role of mothers 'taken over by business'

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

THE sexual revolution has desexed rather than liberated women, Germaine Greer told a writers' festival in her home city of Melbourne.

In what the media called a "provocative speech that mixed gender theory, graphic sexual imagery and a touch of prudishness", Ms Greer, 58, said women had become enslaved by a "penetration culture" that venerated the penis and assaulted the prestige of motherhood.

The author of *The Female Eunuch*, speaking on "Sex, Angst and the Millennium", added: "The assault on the prestige of the mother has been more successful than any feminist strategy. Our culture does not think of woman as makers of men. Motherhood is not venerated among us... feminist strategies were co-opted into the marginalisation of the mother, who now functions primarily as a scapegoat. She can claim no credit for the successes of her children, but must bear the blame for all of their failures."

"The role of nurturer has been assumed by organisations and by business; the mother is an obstacle in the path of their complete control of the child. She must act as their agent in the socialisation

of the child or be found wanting."

"Every day politicians attack mothers for being young or single or irresponsible. Advertisements show middle-aged women as too stupid to understand the directions on a detergent packet or smiling half-wittedly at pre-packaged foods or yackety-yacking on the telephone or dematerialising as the first sips of liberating lager slide down the male throat."

Ms Greer added: "In 1969 women had the right to say no without apology — what they didn't have was the right to say yes. Now they have a duty to say yes to whatever their partners may desire."

"Little girls begin learning penetration culture from girls' magazines that tell them how to dress and make themselves up in order to look really sexy. The clothing they are supposed to wear emphasises their frail vulnerability and their availability."

"The advertisements in such teen-mags are for clothes, make-up, hair dye, condoms and pregnancy kits. This is the culture that the liberated young women of the 1990s are being inducted into."

Kitten woman, page 19

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M Schuller's life on the run was not uncomfortable: he



Vulcanologists from the Etna and Vesuvius areas have been called in to see if they can throw any light on the phe-

The continuing quakes were giving rise to a national psychosis. Two psychologists from the University of Padua, Roberto Marino and Carlo Heinrich, said people in the quake zone suffered from psychological disorders, including loss of libido.

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# Reno to work with FBI on funds scandal

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

JANET RENO, the US Attorney-General, has tried to appease Republican critics by promising not to close any part of her inquiry into fundraising by President Clinton or Vice-President Al Gore without prior FBI approval.

In what appeared to be an unprecedented sharing of power between the Justice Department and the FBI, Ms Reno said that no investigation of alleged irregular fundraising by the White House would be concluded without the joint sanction of herself and Louis Freeh, the bureau's director. Her decision came after the release of more embarrassing videotapes by the White House showing President Clinton at ease with the most notorious figures involved in Democratic fundraising for his re-election last year.

They included Asian connections from Mr Clinton's time as Arkansas Governor: James Riady, the Indonesian billionaire, John Huang, the top Democratic fundraiser who is at the centre of the controversy, and Charlie Trie, a restaurateur who later

owned a multinational company. The President has maintained he had only a faint recollection of Mr Trie. In the videotape, however, Mr Clinton declares: "Soon it will be 20 years since I had my first meal with Charlie Trie. At the time, neither one of us could afford the ticket to this dinner."

Months after the dinner, held in May 1996, the Democratic Party was forced to return more than \$3 million (£1.8 million) in irregular foreign donations, in large part raised by Mr Trie and Mr Huang, whom Mr Clinton welcomes in other footage as "my good friend".

Although the 100 hours of extra film failed to show Mr Clinton soliciting funds on federal property, a violation of American election law, the widely televised pictures, combined with Republican attacks on Ms Reno, gave further momentum to the often complex and sluggish inquiry.

Johnny Chung, another key player who has claimed he handed a \$50,000 cheque to Hillary Clinton's aides at the White House and was later granted an audience with Mrs Clinton, is seen receiving a hug from the President. Records show that this was just one of 49 visits Mr Chung made to the White House.

## Islam wedding for 10,000 couples

Washington: In his latest attempt to fill the vacuum of ethnic leadership in America, Louis Farrakhan has announced he will preside over the weddings of 10,000 couples in a multiracial ceremony here in 2000 (Tom Rhodes writes).

The controversial head of the Nation of Islam is one of the most powerful black voices in America. He made his announcement as he called yesterday for a Second World Day of Atonement to mark the second year of the Million Man March in Washington on October 16, 1995. He urged black Americans to remain at home as part of a reaffirmation of family commitment.

He also plans to renew the marriage vows of thousands of other couples at the millennium ceremony. "I hope to marry 10,000 new couples on that day, so that we may go into the millennium not black male, black female, but as a wholesome family with God at the centre."

# Clintons revel in land of beef and tango

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN BUENOS AIRES

PRESIDENT Clinton spent his first night in Buenos Aires in true Argentine style, emerging at 10pm from his hotel to visit the famous Las Lilas steak restaurant in a fashionable area by the port.

He and his wife, Hillary, were served the best of Argentine beef, salads and a selection of the country's top red wines. Afterwards the Clintons went to the Don Tango bar in the colonial district of San Telmo and watched a tango show. The Clintons took to the dance floor with some remarkable footwork.

Throughout the President's first visit to South American countries, he has been keen to abandon protocol. He allowed dozens of shantytown dwellers in Rio de Janeiro to shower him with hugs and kisses. On stepping from Air Force One in Buenos Aires, he received a bear hug from President Menem.

Yesterday Mr Clinton had official meetings with Señor Menem and government officials. He needs support for his proposal to create a free-trade zone in the Americas in the new millennium. Señor Menem said he shared the "Clinton dream", but no formal agreement was signed. The two leaders were due to sign accords on educational projects, the war on drugs, environmental protection and technological assistance.

During a speech at a ceremony in honour of General José San Martín, Argentina's most revered liberator, Mr Clinton said he had notified the US Congress to designate Argentina as a special ally outside Nato. This is in part a thank you for Argentina's participation in 16 UN peace-keeping missions and its sending of troops and two frigates to the Gulf War. But it is also a diplomatic ploy to send a feminist message to traditionally macho societies. It is possible that she is trying to avoid the peering lenses of photographers, who



President Clinton hugs Pele after visiting a school for poor children founded by the football star, near one of Rio de Janeiro's shantytowns on Wednesday

the political one. Mr and Mrs Clinton are due to attend a gala dinner at the Rural Society Club, hosted by Argentina's richest landowners. Mrs Clinton, who has discarded dresses for trouser suits for most of the tour, seems to have been trying to send a feminist message to traditionally macho societies. It is possible that she is trying to avoid the peering lenses of photographers, who

on her last visit to Brazil in 1994 caught a view of her underwear as she sat in a conference hall. The photograph, banned after complaints from the American Embassy, was used for some months in an advertising campaign for a Brazilian lingerie line.

Mrs Clinton had toured a Rio de Janeiro slum in 42C (107F) of tropical heat, wearing a thick red trouser suit. On arrival in Argentina hours later, she wore a large yellow coat over black trousers. Yesterday she wore a light blue full-length trouser suit.

## WORLD SUMMARY

### Lake life killed to save trout

Los Angeles: State officials have poisoned all the fish in Lake Davis, 150 miles northeast of San Francisco, to prevent the northern pike destroying the area's trout and salmon (Giles Whitell writes). Residents of the town of Portola mounted a candle-lit vigil as three activists in wetsuits padlocked themselves to a buoy in an effort to stop the action. They were arrested. The lake will be restocked with 700,000 trout in about two months.

### Singapore spill

Singapore: An empty Thai supertanker and a ship half its size collided in the Singapore Strait, causing one of the worst oil spills South-East Asia has seen. The Cyprus-registered tanker *Evoikos* split 25,000 tonnes of fuel oil after colliding with the supertanker *Orapin Global*, Australia. Japan and the United States have agreed to send equipment to hasten the clean-up. (Reuters)

### Cut and run

New York: A woman in Duluth, Minnesota, is suing her diabetic former fiancé, who she says duped her so her brother would donate his kidney (Tunku Varadarajan writes). Richard McNutz broke off the engagement two days after the transplant. The donor said: "I thought he wanted my sister's heart, but I now see he only wanted my kidney."

### Safe investment

Bogotá: Colombian politicians earmarked £8.6 million of next year's £19.3 billion budget to buy themselves bullet-proof vests, armour-plated vehicles and bodyguards to confront a rising wave of rebel-led and drug-related violence. (Reuters)

### Nobel accolade

Phnom Penh: Tun Channareth, a Cambodian anti-mine campaigner who lost both legs to an anti-personnel mine 15 years ago, will accept the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of the anti-landmine campaign, officials said. (AP)

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# Angolan firepower eases ex-dictator's takeover in Congo

By SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

THE former Marxist military dictator of Congo returned to power yesterday after his troops swept into Brazzaville, the capital, and Pointe Noire, the centre of the oil industry, with the help of Angolan government soldiers, tanks and jet fighters.

The swift victory of General Denis Sassou-Nguesso was as much a triumph for Angola, which has secured the oil-rich enclave of Cabinda from attacks by Unita, the Angolan rebel movement, as it was for General Sassou-Nguesso's Cobra militia. The Angolans and the militia swept into Pointe Noire on Wednesday evening, a day after President Lissouba had lost the capital in a surprise assault on his palace by the Cobras, backed up by Angolan MiGs.

"Today the war is over. We control all of the country and all major cities," Jean-Marie Tassoua, a senior commander in the Cobra militia, said by telephone on Wednesday evening. The civil war

began in June when Mr Lissouba attempted to disarm the Cobra militia; after that it degenerated into a "Liberian scenario", in which drugged and drunken fighters dressed in drag to frighten their opponents.

Yesterday, bodies of alleged looters lay on the streets of Pointe Noire while Angolan tanks controlled key roads and the airport, but the city was otherwise quiet.

In Paris, the French Defence Ministry placed 300 paratroops on standby to evacuate the city and most foreigners were ordered to stay in their hotels or the French consulate until tensions eased.

Brazzaville, a city close to many French hearts since it was a headquarters of the Free French during the Second World War, has been reduced to rubble after months of indiscriminate shelling that also hit Kinshasa, the capital of the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo, formerly Zaire. Mr Lissouba was reported to

have fled in a helicopter to the Republic shortly before the fall of Pointe Noire. In a French radio interview he insisted that he was still the President because he had not been ousted in elections which were cancelled after the fighting broke out in June. He came to power after winning the elections against General Sassou-Nguesso in 1992.

France moved quickly yesterday to establish a good relationship with General Sassou-Nguesso, who had ruled Congo along Marxist lines while selling oil to Elf Aquitaine, the French petrochemical company, for 12 years.

"Sassou-Nguesso is the master of Brazzaville, and since his Congolese allies have occupied Pointe Noire without firing a shot, one can consider he is the man to talk to, to put into place a new democratic process," said Charles Josselin, the French Development Aid Minister. Although France and the United States condemned publicly Ango-



A member of the Cobra militia which, backed by Angola, defeated the forces of the elected President Lissouba in Brazzaville

la's involvement in Congo, diplomats in the region said they were relieved that the war appeared to have come to a sudden end. The collapse of Mr Lissouba's Government was partly due to the lack of discipline of his forces, but

mainly because he had provided bases for Unita guerrillas to launch assaults inside Cabinda and the rest of Angola, provoking the involvement of Angolan government troops in the conflict. Jonas Savimbi, the Unita leader,

has been reluctant to implement Angola's peace accords and has enjoyed the use of bases outside the country to continue his struggle. But in the past few months he has lost his key bases after the removal of President Mobutu in the former

Zaire and now with the political demise of Mr Lissouba, his ally. One Western diplomat in Kinshasa, commenting on the regional conflicts, said: "The prospects for peace in Angola look better every time Savimbi takes a knock."

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## Hutu night raids revive genocide fears in Rwanda

FROM DAVID ORR  
IN GISENYI, RWANDA



BLOODSTAINED rags and a wicker stretcher outside Gisenyi hospital show that yet another "war" victim has been brought down from the hills ringing this northwest Rwanda town by the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo, formerly Zaire.

This time a farmer from the Hutu majority has been injured in a machete attack. Those who took him to hospital say his assailants were from Mudende, a refugee camp holding about 12,000 ethnic Tutsis from Congo. "This is happening all the time now," says Celestin Ndarasi, the hospital administrator. "They are usually brought down in the morning after a night-time attack."

Soon afterwards, comes news that 37 Tutsis were killed on Monday night at Arusha, a settlement for Rwandans who returned from refugee camps in Zaire shortly before the 1994 Rwandan genocide. They are said to have been attacked by Hutu militants and soldiers from the former Rwandan Army, themselves just back from Congo camps.

More than three years after the genocide that killed at least half a million people, mostly Tutsis, Rwanda is still locked in a cycle of murder and revenge. Laurent Kabila's Rwandan-backed victory in Congo has not brought peace to Central Africa; there is widespread unrest in eastern Congo and fighting has split over into Uganda.

Rwanda's Hutu extremists are back in business inside their own country, launching strikes from bases among the tree-lined hills that are a tra-

ditional stronghold. Gisenyi's inhabitants live in fear. One morning last week they awoke to the sound of machinegun fire and mortars coming from hills by the airport. Never before had there been such a raid on the town. And never before had they come in such large numbers, at least 1,000 were in the attack, according to the Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA).

"We treated about 15 injured [RPA] soldiers here," says the hospital administrator. Asked if any injured rebels were brought in, he smiles, then looks at the ground. The inference is clear: this is a bloody war and few prisoners are taken. During May and June the RPA says it killed 1,800 "rebels" here. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Field Operations in Rwanda knows of only a dozen prisoners being taken.

An average of 1,000 Rwandans have died violent deaths every month, according to UN officials, many of them unarmed civilians.

The Rwandan Government insists that the security situation is improving, but the Tutsi-dominated regime is fighting for its survival. Little quarter will be shown.

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## Cook lists gains from trip

By MICHAEL BUNYON  
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

FAR from being the accident-prone fiasco portrayed in the media, the state visits to India and Pakistan have been spectacularly successful, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday.

The visit to India had led to important trade contracts, brought huge and warm crowds into the streets, especially in Amritsar, and has yielded valuable political agreements during his talks with Inder Kumar Gujral, the Prime Minister, Mr Cook said.

The Foreign Secretary, who returned home on Wednesday, said there was a perception in the Royal Household that there were two state visits: the one reported by the media which focused only on protocol difficulties, and the one experienced by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

"When we returned from Amritsar we were euphoric at the reception," Mr Cook said. He said that tens of thousands of people came to see the Queen, with crowds stretching for 20 miles. The high point was the presence of five Sikhs from Birmingham because they were paying for the restoration of the Golden Temple. "This illustrates the very close ties between our two countries," Mr Cook told *The Times*.

State visits, he said, had three main purposes, and these had been achieved. The first was the people-to-people contact, which was "spectacularly" achieved at Amritsar, Madras and in the other cities visited. The second was to create a good climate in which to boost trade. And the third was to give politicians the chance to meet in the wings of the visit and discuss bilateral relations.

Mr Cook said his talks with Mr Gujral had gone well. "He said that political and economic relations had never been better or in better shape." He said they discussed co-operation in the World Trade Organisation, at the United Nations and at the forthcoming Commonwealth conference in Edinburgh. Mr Gujral will be one of only four speakers at the opening of the summit.

He said that his talks in Pakistan had focused on how to obtain a ceasefire in Afghanistan and the vital issue of drug trade prevention.

## Blair seeks to salvage royal tour of India

TONY BLAIR and Robin Cook tried yesterday to salvage the Queen's tour of India after a series of blunders left the Government embroiled in its first serious foreign policy setback. The war of words between Delhi and London is threatening to overshadow next week's Commonwealth conference in Edinburgh.

The Prime Minister ordered the Cabinet to highlight the successes of the tour after damaging coverage in Britain and India. Senior ministers tried to play down suggestions of a rift between Buckingham Palace and the Government after a royal official appeared to deflect blame for breaches of protocol on to ministers.

But hopes that the controversy might die down were dashed last night when Indian government sources claimed Labour had a "hidden agenda" to create an independent Kashmir. The unnamed sources said Mr Cook had told Indian authorities the Kashmir issue was an "article of faith" with the Labour Party. "The hidden agenda was ultimately to obtain an independent state of Jammu and Kashmir," the sources said. "Cook genuinely believes that there is an unfinished business of Partition."

A speech by the Queen in Islamabad called on Pakistan and India to settle their "historic differences" over Kashmir, a remark that upset the Indian government because it was seen as internationalising the conflict. But a senior official travelling with the Queen yesterday said she had acted on her Government's advice. "The Queen is here on

**Blunders leave Government with serious foreign policy hitch, says Philip Webster, political editor**

the advice of ministers in Britain. The Queen does not go out on a limb."

Senior palace officials were reported later to have assured the Foreign Office that the remarks were not intended as criticism of the Government. They said that the official was merely stating the constitutional position and had no complaint over the advice offered by Mr Cook to the Queen. Mr Cook, back in London, spoke to Sir Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private secretary, yesterday and there was apparently no acrimony.

High-ranking Foreign Office sources said that Mr Cook was not aware that the palace was levelling any criticism at the Government. Mr Cook later defended the Islamabad speech which the Foreign Office would have automatically seen. "It is unreasonable to criticise Her Majesty for calling for reconciliation between the two countries," he said. "The Foreign Secretary and Mr Blair were pains all day to claim that the media's concentration on alleged breaches of protocol had obscured the true value of the tour."

Mr Cook described the row

over the speech the Queen had had to cancel last night as a "storm in a toast-cup". And in a move that appeared to take the pressure off Sir David Gore-Booth, British High Commissioner in Delhi, the Foreign Secretary let it be known that no blame attached to British officials.

Ministers said that reports of friction between Britain and India were "making mountains out of molehills". But tensions persisted with another Indian government minister criticising Mr Cook and the Duke of Edinburgh.

The row has given a rare chance for the Conservatives to attack Michael Howard, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, accused Mr Cook of damaging Britain's standing abroad. "Never has a Foreign Secretary caused so much offence to so many people in such a short time. He has made a disastrous start."

At yesterday's Cabinet meeting Mr Cook said the royal visit to Pakistan and India had been a success, contrary to media reports. He described the "enormous warmth" with which people had greeted the Queen, and said the trip had also been a major success in trade terms, with the signing of eight big contracts.

Jayanthi Natarajan, the Indian Civil Aviation Minister, told BBC Radio 4's *The World at One* that although the state visit had been successful from the Queen's point of view, there was unhappiness about "certain avoidable remarks" attributed to Mr Cook.

Philip Howard, page 20  
Leading article, page 21



The Queen, accompanied by R. Venkataraman, the former President of India, meets a dancer from the Kalakshetra Foundation after watching a dance performance under a banyan tree in Madras yesterday (Christopher Thomas writes). It was a quiet day, as outwardly serene as all the others in her nearly two

## Roses tribute to Gandhi

weeks of state visits to Pakistan and India, belying the confusion that has been swirling about her.

But besides viewing the dancing, the making of a Tamil film and an exhibition

of crafts, the Queen fulfilled a more sombre engagement. She was driven for an hour out of the city to the park where Rajiv Gandhi, the former Prime Minister, was blown up by a suicide-bomber in 1991, and laid a wreath of red roses in front of a memorial. Today she flies to Cochin for the penultimate day of engagements.

## Politician demands return of diamond

By MICHAEL BUNYON

A SENIOR Indian opposition politician demanded yesterday that Britain return to India the world's most famous diamond and the largest collection of Indian manuscripts.

Speaking on the BBC *Today* programme, K.R. Malkani, a leading member of the BJP Hindu nationalist party, called for the return of the Koh-i-Noor diamond and the India Office Library, renewing claims that have been made for more than 50 years.

There is no chance that the Government will agree to the transfer of the diamond or the priceless collection of books in the British Library. "The Koh-i-Noor forms part of the Crown Jewels and will not be returned," the Foreign Office said.

Even before independence, Indian politicians were demanding the return of the 106-carat gem that is the centrepiece of the Queen Mother's Crown. It was presented to Queen Victoria by the East India Company in 1850. At intervals over the past 50 years that demand has been repeated by Indian politicians.

The India Office Library is a priceless collection of manuscripts and archives from and about India and Asia that was formerly housed in the India Office in Whitehall. It now forms part of the British Library, and with 13 miles of archives and about a million published items is the richest collection in the world.

Some 70 per cent of them are in Asian languages; the rest are books published in Europe. Many do not deal with India at all, but cover much of Asia and Africa, including records of dealings between the East India Company and China.

## Envoy rejects fuss about 'little toasts here and there'

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN MADRAS

CONTROVERSY continued to dog the Queen's visit yesterday, despite an intensive damage-control exercise by the Foreign Office and the Palace. British sources indicated that Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, had raised the question of Kashmir with Inder Kumar Gujral, the Prime Minister, in Delhi this week, despite an Indian statement saying he had not done so.

It was apparently not a hostile meeting, as some Indian reports indicated yesterday, but Mr Gujral did urge Mr Cook to be more cautious in his public statements.

The two countries have been at odds all week about events surrounding the Queen's visit, in large measure because of India's outrage at what it suspects is the British Government's anti-Indian position

over Kashmir. The depth of anger is reflected in extraordinary outbursts by official spokesmen in Delhi.

Comments yesterday by Sir David Gore-Booth, the British High Commissioner to Delhi, were described by one External Affairs Ministry spokesman as an attempt to "cover his backside". Sir David said the brief remarks that the Queen had planned in Tamil Nadu, which she was forced to cancel because India said protocol allowed only one speech per state visit, had never amounted to a speech.

"I am not sure what the fuss is all about," he said. It had never been intended that there should be more than one major speech. The rest were going to be "little toasts here and there". The Queen did not feel embarrassed. "It is a little snafu that is bound to occur in a programme of this magnitude and complexity."

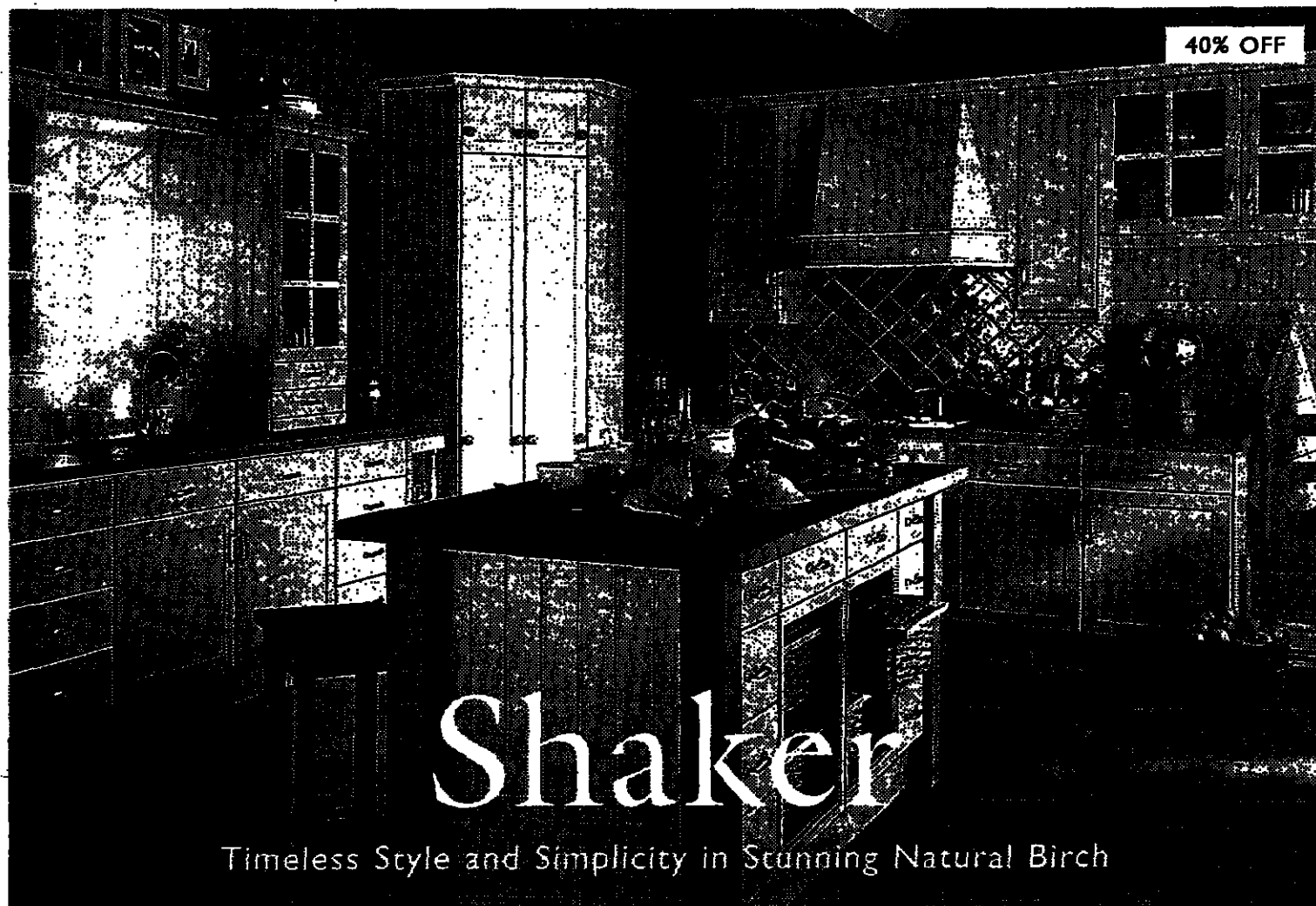
He said the relationship between Britain and India was sensitive for historical reasons and the fact that India had invited the Queen was a tribute to her and Britain. The visit was bound to be difficult to navigate because of historic sensitivities. He defended the speech she made in Pakistan because "it would be extremely odd if the Queen were in Pakistan and did not refer to what is, for the Pakistanis, the core issue."

Palace officials indicated yesterday that the Queen had accepted that the Royal Family must adapt after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, but made it clear there would be no sudden switch of style. They spoke of the need for "softer, gentler touches".

A senior source said that "no one should ever try to persuade any member of the Royal Family to be anything they are not". The Palace regards the death of the Princess as the first royal tragedy to occur in what a senior official called the "mass media culture". He said shock waves normally took time to reach the outside world but this time they had reached everyone immediately.

These observations indicate soul-searching within the Royal Family to redefine its role. The Queen's trip to Pakistan and India could have successfully projected her but instead the visit has been mired in trouble. The Queen is described, nevertheless, as happy with the welcome she has received. Palace officials talked of the "nit-picking" that has overwhelmed the trip's positive aspects. The affair of the cancelled speech in Madras had added to other "fleabites" during the tour.

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# The British are here to stay



John Galiano's collection for Dior: a fusion of Belle Epoque splendour with boudoir seduction



John Galiano, left, for Dior; Stella McCartney in her first collection for Chloé; Galiano, again for Dior, and Issey Miyake.



**B**ack in the 1960s, Sir Paul McCartney hitch-hiked to Paris and posed for a picture on the steps of the Paris Opera House. That was as far as he got. On Wednesday his daughter Stella took over the place for her debut as chief designer at Chloé. On each of the little gilt chairs there was a programme entitled "Stella McCartney: I believe." And it was Stella's guest list that was on the door.

Sir Paul had a tear in his eye. He was not the only one: there are members of the French fashion establishment who could weep that their most famous *catalysts* have been overtaken by Britons. What is more, the Britons look set to stay. John Galiano is firmly established, while Bernard Arnault is negotiating to extend the two-year contract of Alexander McQueen, the East End bad boy.

It is McQueen who really riles the *haute bourgeoisie*. His uncouth looks and camouflage trousers are just not *comme il faut*. The sight of him sitting in the lighting gantry during the Givenchy show, lighting a cigarette and swigging his beer, would have sent them into apoplexy. (Had he shown in Milan, the police would probably have charged him with batons.)

So Paris Fashion Week is scarcely recognisable as French any more. The first five days were dominated by the British, the Japanese and Belgian and Austrian deconstructionists. Even Chanel is headed by a German, Karl Lagerfeld.

It is, however, the Britons who are really on trial. Galiano can do haute couture superlatively — but can he do a commercial ready-to-

Paris Fashion Week scarcely qualifies as being truly French any more, says Style Editor Grace Bradberry



Stella McCartney for Chloé, and Alexander McQueen for Givenchy



wear collection? McQueen can do ready-to-wear — though his harsh aesthetic is not everyone's taste — but the jury is out on his haute couture. And before this week, the question was could Stella McCartney cut it at all?

To everyone's surprise, it was McCartney, 25, just two years out of Central St Martin's, who silenced the doubters most effectively. The soundtrack to her show included the song, *Ain't She Sweet*, and the clothes were just that — creatively unambitious but feminine, whimsical and above all desirable.

Naomi Campbell and Kate Moss, who modelled in McCartney's graduate show, were back, opening the collection in white dresses with tiny frills and lines of open-work reminiscent of Edwardian lingerie looks.

But it is McCartney's trouser suits, wide-legged, flat-fronted with jackets cut sedgely across the bust to expose camisole tops, that are likely to become her signature. They are sassy, flattering and distinctive enough to be a hit — especially with Ms McCartney's moneyed chums. While other designers need to

produce some *outré* clothes to give themselves an *avant-garde* cachet, McCartney doesn't. Her front row — Paul, Ringo, David Bailey, was the cachet.

The Dior show was harder to call. Galiano's fusion of Belle Epoque splendour with boudoir seduction has proved such a winning combination that he has carried it over from the haute couture to the ready-to-wear. But the dresses, including stunning bias-cut lingerie numbers, were less opulent versions of their couture counterparts.

**D**espite a section of the show hopefully entitled "Business Meetings", the combination of high-waisted pinstripe trousers with double-breasted jackets tucked inside, seem unlikely to catch on. The short, nipped-waist jackets remain highly desirable.

McQueen, showing his second ready-to-wear collection for Givenchy, was the only one to strike out in a new direction. The Paris-Texas theme only occasionally descended into kitsch. If some of the trouser suits featured scary shoulder pads, then others were lean, mean and rather cool, with fringing on sleeves that flared into a bell-bottom.

But if Parisians find McQueen a little outlandish, then there is still hope for him, compared with Issey Miyake, whose collection did not inspire immediate affection. The opening dresses, constructed of swathes of off-white muslin, were reminiscent of surgical bandages. Later, billows of crushed silk wound round the models in sculptural forms. But still, the French love Issey Miyake.

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## Kitten woman: claws and effect



Germaine Greer: critical

As Germaine Greer attacks the women's magazine culture of sexual availability, Vogue profiles the kitten woman in all her fluffy glory. Below, Kimberly Fortier and Erica Wagner debate the issue



Erica Wagner: women are people, kittens are just baby cats

Kimberly Fortier: tried and condemned as a small-time kitten woman

Women are not created equal. Some are pretty, clever and well-connected. Others are not. But there are those who know how to circumvent whatever Mother Nature has doled out, and grab the floor either way. Among these is the genus "kitten woman".

You know the type: you've met her often enough. You're in the boardroom, business on your mind, when she comes busting in (late again). Her taxi ran into a political protest in Park Lane: what's the problem with these Albanians anyway? She sits down, cocks her head and playfully taps your wrist. What a marvellous manicure you have. She can't ever find the time... or any place in town... where do you go? Now, about the printing contract, it's 25 per cent over what she's budgeted and she's been reading that paper prices are way down per tonnage. Sorry, no deal at this price. But don't you just love the *Financial Times* — the pink paper, so flattering to the complexion? It reflects up on to your face when you read it.

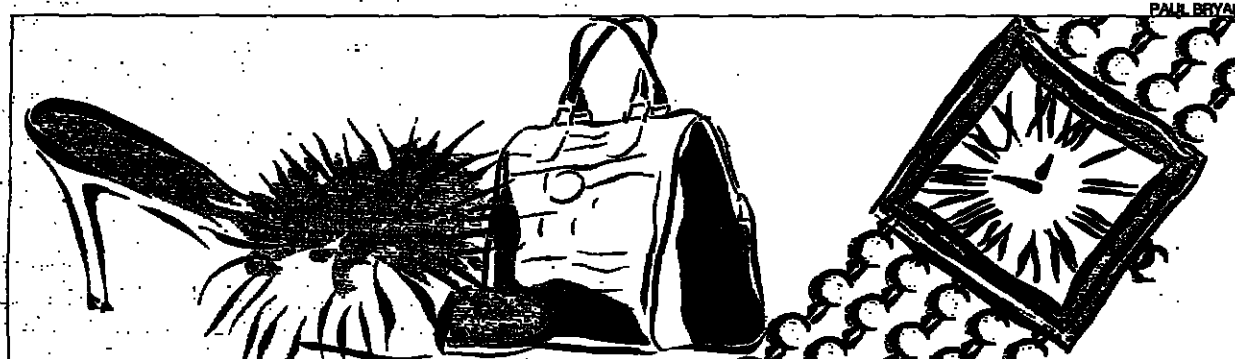
This is kitten woman in all her fluffy, purring, girlish glory. Listen carefully and you'll hear the distinctive call: whether it's a Jackie Kennedy-style baby whisper or Marilyn Monroe's breathy, little-girl drawl, it's not the kind of voice you hear hurrying over the "time" call in a pub. At a party, the man she's speaking to has to lean forward to hear her. Quite a bit forward — unless she's actually whispering in his ear.

Kitten woman has a way of making every gesture look childlike and intimate. If she's a friend of yours, she'll straighten your collar, clasp

your hand, tilt her head and look up into your eyes. But don't believe this is all about sexual power; she wants women to like her just as much as men. In a strange way, women are the more important conquest of the two. Men already tend to see women as the other. They expect women to behave in a different way and are more relaxed about being charmed and cajoled. Women, however, want a certain amount of sameness from their female friends and colleagues (particularly if the women in question are on a similar level at work).

Other women are alarmed by all that verbal tap-dancing and eyelash fluttering. They doubt and distrust. To win these women over is the ultimate victory.

Though they can sound rather outrageous in print, the voice and the body language common to kitten women are actually quite subtle, as is the dress code. She does not go for overly sexy or glamorous clothing; nor does she favour cutting-edge designer fashion. Her pastel linen suits, tidy dresses and slender trousers and jackets are chosen so that she will be noticed, not her clothes. In a subtly titillating way, they often resemble an elegant school uniform. She wears very good jewellery, which she's collected purposefully for years. Her manicure is neat, nails not too long, garish varnish out of the question. Her make-up is neutral (no smoky-eyed, scarlet-lipped vamping) and applied to create the glow of health and youth. Her hair is tangibly clean. It tends to be shoulder length, with lots of shine and bounce. She has what her friends call a good



cut. There is a certain timeless quality to her personal style: she is not interested in slavishly following whatever trend is being touted this year.

Of course, the kitten woman is nothing new, quite the opposite. Through history, kittenish behaviour has been a feminine ideal. It reached its zenith in the 19th century, when if you didn't have an adorable, wheedling child bride, then you'd married the wrong girl. Since the First World War, there has been a gradual flow of women into the workforce, accelerating with the sexual liberation of the Sixties and the break-up of the traditional family unit.

Women have come to grips with the idea of diverse wants and needs for their sisters. Ambition and career are acceptable. Motherhood and family are equally fine. Yet women are still stigmatised. A woman can do what she wants, as long as she sticks to some fairly strict, though unspoken, guidelines. Work must be taken seriously, unemotionally, purposefully; just like a man does really.

Poor kitten woman. Once admired, she now faces contempt from the (non-feline) female population. A case in point is the phone call I received from *Vogue's* features director. She began to describe

the kind of woman and behaviour that was tangibly unacceptable to her. "You know," she said, "the kind of woman who makes you feel like she's in a pink taffeta dress while you're slumping about in your jeans. The kind of woman who doesn't let on that she's [big pause] really quite [bigger pause] intelligent." Ugh! I knew why she was asking me to write this. I was being tried (and condemned) as a small-time kitten woman.

In defence, I have to say that kitten behaviour is rarely a conscious, calculated act: it's more a mixture of folkloric memory and nature. It's a preference for the roundabout over the straight line, nuanced chatter over direct confrontation; Talleyrand over Napoleon, Clara Bow over Joan Crawford. We want success, like everyone else. And sometimes it's best reached through a great deal of laughter and tossing of curls. "I tend to hire very chatty, feminine women," admits the chairman of an advertising agency. "Beneath a barrage of inane chatter they move quite successfully towards a specific goal."

As the American novelist Walker Percy once said of Southern girls (the mothers of all kitten women): "They see

you coming in several different directions before you even know they're there." In this way their lack of obvious direction is a great defence for a kitten woman. If people don't know what you're trying to achieve, then they can't pinpoint failure. Life is fun, let's be merry, snapping up that big IBM contract is just the cherry on the cake.

Let's face it, men have control of the citadel and they're not crazy about ambi-

tious women, so being ambitious without looking it, works. Early BBC footage of Margaret Thatcher shows the young MP talking softly of politics while she does the washing-up after Sunday lunch. What a pro.

The deflating part of life for kitten woman is that many people don't get the joke. My beautiful, serious best friend is still puzzled by the way I occasionally act, and spends time explaining me to her other friends. She once introduced me to a *Guardian* journalist with the words: "This is Kimberly. She is not as she seems." When we met after work, I reproached her: "Why can't I be interested in the environment and have a great hairdo, too? Why can't I support women MPs and shop at Cha-

nel? Why can't I discuss my new handbag with the Chancellor of the Exchequer? I'm sure we could move on to exchange-rate policy later?" My friend snorts. "Knock it off," she says. "They'll just think you're stupid. Why don't you think about just slightly retuning your public personality?" I find this depressing. It makes me feel like Channel 5.

All I can ask of my fellow women is, don't sit in judgment. You are admired for being earnest, driven, caring and modern. Let me be frivolous, flirtatious and slightly dippy. And we're not out to get you. One good thing about kitten women is that they don't like to use their claws.



Extracted from an article in the November issue of *Vogue*: Kimberly Fortier is publisher of *The Spectator*

### WHO'S WHO IN THE FELINE STAKES

#### KITTEN WOMEN

Helena Bonham Carter  
Charlie Blair  
The Queen Mother  
Anna Ford  
Julia Burchill  
Donatella Versace  
Naomi Wolf  
Felicity Kendal  
Anunchati Roy  
Anna Wintour  
Lia Lee

#### TIGRESSES

Emma Thompson  
Clare Short  
Camilla Parker Bowles  
Sue MacGregor  
Charlotte Raven  
Dorota Karan  
Germaine Greer  
Diane Maggioni  
Jeanette Winterson  
Diana Vreeland  
Po

## Why I prefer real charm over guile

Well, you choose. They've given you a list. Felicity Kendal or Clare Short. Who's it going to be?

They're all out there, the categories we can slot ourselves into. Men and women both — but let's face it, mainly women. Kitten woman seems to be the latest. She's not quite a vamp, she's nicer than that, she'd never steal your husband and you'd never lean over to your partner: flick your chin in her direction and whisper, "Look what she's got on. Really."

Kitten woman keeps it quiet. Nice manicure, tasteful clothes, curls cut just right for tossing. She gets her man — and in this case let's take that as a fair metaphor for her business deal, or just her way — with a good deal of cleverness and a healthy dose of eyelash-batting which, of course, is just fine. The problem is when other people notice what's going on.

Most women go about things differently from men. Not so long ago I sat quietly at

a table while two men I know shouted seven kinds of hell out of one another in an attempt to gain victory in an argument. I can recall thinking to myself that this was not how I would have gone about my own campaign: but my strategy would not have included inquiring who had cut my opponent's hair.

I like to think I'd address the issue with calm and intelligence — and some degree of charm. The secret of charm, the real kind, is that you must not be able to spot it, and surely that is the problem with kitten woman, or at least in deciding very consciously to be her. This goes for men as well as women.

Charm in its best sense is genuine, a real desire to get the best from people — whatever the situation — because it is in everyone's best interests. Charm doesn't work when it's calculated. You can see it coming from over the river.

In theory, the point about KW (as we may perhaps call her) is that you can't see it so subtle and so clever that you

are just, oh, swept away by it and before you know it your assets have been stripped and you have to sell the farm. And then — wouldn't you feel like an idiot? Mightn't KW's scent-ed halo begin to fade?

Now here's the thing: I

Think of plain Jane Eyre: a woman who got what she wanted

don't have any curls to toss, and I can't pretend that this isn't a decision quite as conscious as one to have a permanent wave. Every decision I make — every decision we all make — about how I cut my hair, what I wear, how I behave, is at some level calculated, even at the times I

might fool myself it isn't. And of course I know that there are times when a smile will really do the trick. But that's the way human beings interact. That's what makes it interesting.

Rejecting the stereotype of kitten woman doesn't mean turning into *Aliens*' Ripley. Think about plain Jane Eyre: a woman who got what she wanted you might see her marriage to Mr Rochester as the only kind of merger and acquisition available to most women at the time by speaking her mind. Jane wouldn't flatter or fluster, Jane told the truth. As for Blanche Ingram, where did all her kittenish skitterings get her? Right out the door, that's where. Jane may not think she's beautiful but she is, her clear, unwavering character shining through her every action.

Clearly, not guile, is the more attractive trait. It's an idea that runs through literature — not just Jane, but Esther Summerson in *Bleak House* (one of Dickens's best women, though he seems to have had a weakness for the

kitten himself, to name just one other — and popular culture too: how better to explain the appeal of an actor such as Jodie Foster?

Of course, if being kitten woman makes you happy, live long and prosper, may all your mergers be merry. But is the secret of the successful woman's life really to hide her ambitions in a whispery voice and a downcast eye? I don't think it has to be that way. If, at the end of our meeting, I have charmed you, I hope I have achieved it by showing you who I am, not who I think you would like me to. Then there is a far better chance that what we want to achieve — success in business, a particular goal, or, indeed, a love affair — will not only come to pass but continue to bear fruit for us both. I'll look you in the eye and tell you what I think. The thing about women is they're people. Kittens are just baby cats.

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# A shot in the arm for the body politic

Denis MacShane wants the State to fund parties, not smother them

Should taxpayers pay for democracy? The question Sir Patrick Neill has to answer is not a new one. Pounded by pound, decade by decade, the political process has got its hands on public money. To read Trollope, the only linkage between politics and money was whether or not the Duke of Omnium would buy a seat for one of his wife's favourites. We have moved on from the late 19th century.

MPs now have a middle-rank professional salary, though even that is not sufficient for some Tory front-benchers. Allowances for MPs permit them to hire one-and-a-half members of staff at decent London salaries; but travel, telephone calls, constituency offices, computer and communications equipment all have to be juggled within tight limits. Ken Clarke had to find a £20 B&B at the Blackpool conference because he was paying from his own pocket.

Shadow Cabinet members now get financial assistance. Since Harold Wilson's day, the leaders of the two main Opposition parties get a car and driver. But the broader funding of parties was always rejected by the Conservatives. Their own occult sources of funding, including some dodgy overseas cash cows, allowed the Tories to outspend their rivals. Conservative MPs also loved jangling at Labour's ears in the pockets of the trade unions. They had a point. Until the Tony Blair era, the unions paid the vast majority of the party's bills. Labour's turn to business and the doubling of party membership and donations have reduced the trade union share of Labour's income, but the latter remains important.

William Hague's identification of sleaze — not the sexual variety but the corruption of public ethics by money and power — as the cancer to be rooted out if his party is to survive shows how fast Tory thinking on party political funding has evolved.

There can be few who want to move to the American or Japanese system of permanent fundraising, because there are no limits on what political parties can spend on television advertising. The business of politics should be to strengthen democracy's power over money, not the reverse. Paradoxically, the millions of dollars that American political parties raise and spend do little to encourage political participation. An American President is lucky if one in four of his fellow citizens bothers to vote for him.

But do we want to go in the other direction — of political parties being given large cheques simply for existing, or for standing candidates in elections? Forms of state funding now exist in all European countries. In France and Italy the scandal of ministerial decisions being taken or contracts awarded in return for major donations to political parties destroyed political careers — indeed, it destroyed the Italian Christian Democrats.

Can Britain find a third way between the corruptions of US political fundraising and the corporatism of European state funding? One mechanism would be to distinguish be-

tween the vote-winning business of politics and the policy or educational side of party activity. Parties could get help from the State under two headings. The first would be based on popular support — the number of votes cast in elections — but could only be spent on education, training and policy development.

The second block of state cash should relate to the number of individual members that a party has, and be proportionate to the amount of money that a party raises through its grassroots activities or by appealing for donations. All cash from outside sources should have a maximum limit and should be publicly registered.

Some European nations have party-linked political foundations. A British version of these would provide the means for policy discussion and research. All parties, Government and Opposition, badly need these to stay relevant and to break through the carapace of old thinking, such as left Labour stranded like a turtle on its back in the 1980s.

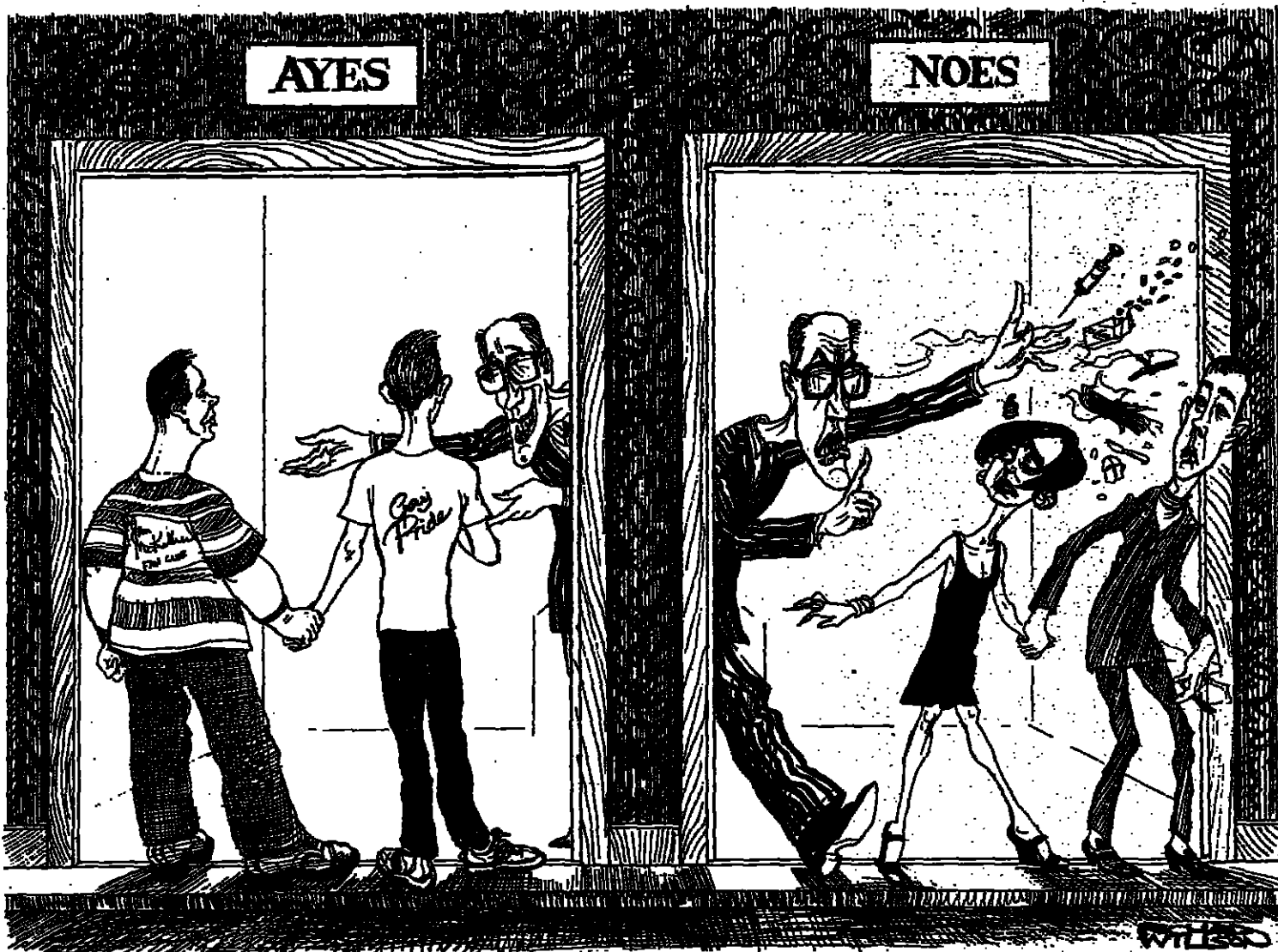
Training for candidates as well as for MPs, councillors and members of the new assemblies could be done professionally. Elected politicians, who take decisions which involve the spending of billions of pounds and which affect the lives of millions of people, also need to join the lifelong learning process.

Policy discussion is not simply academic "wanking" but the lifeblood of the democratic process. It cannot be reduced to gladiatorial Left-Right contests at conference rostrums, nor to glib, pre-packaged speeches and headlines orchestrated by spin-doctors. By focusing state aid on the process of policy debate and development, as well as the training of candidates and party officials, British politics would free itself from the accusation of being beholden to special interests. Companies, unions and pressure groups would still be free to lobby, campaign, and seek to influence politics.

This week I will have attended two party meetings in my constituency in Rotherham at which the Christmas raffle tickets were sold, tickets printed for the annual fundraising dinner, and plans laid to recruit new members. I don't want a state cheque to replace that. I like partisan political campaigning and will raise money and recruit supporters. Nor do I want money flowing exclusively to the central party machines, which can then control local political activity by withholding cash.

Fellow Labour MPs may say that I am mad to argue for a state funding system that puts a premium on the Conservative and Liberal Democrat parties being obliged to go out and recruit members, and having financial help to discuss policy. On the contrary, it places all the more onus on new Labour to out-recruit and out-think our opponents. It is part of the process of modernisation.

The author is Labour MP for Rotherham.



## Westminster logjams

Gay rights took a decade to become Commons sense; drugs will take longer

Looking in, during Labour's Brighton conference, on the Stonewall lobbying group's gay equality dance in the Metropole's big Empress ballroom, you might have suspected that heterosexual partygoers outnumbered gay ones. You would have been right. The straights turned out in force. Quite a few of the gays stayed away. The straights, poor lambs, had heard the event was the happening thing.

The gays feared it might prove somewhat un-chic. Some thought it would turn into too much of a barn dance: a scrum in a hall with Twiglets, crisps and indifferent wine. Anyway, 10pm was far too early; nobody at the cutting edge goes to a dance which starts before midnight.

One could not but smile at the irony. Ben Bradshaw, the new MP for Exeter who is openly gay, announced his non-attendance in advance, his view (as I understand it) being that one doesn't need to make plinking statements about one's sexuality by appearances at totemic social functions any more.

I see Ben's point, although the result was a huge and enthusiastic expression of solidarity, marred only by the failure of those with whom the solidarity was being expressed to turn up. Frankly, they were too busy. As so often, the poor old heterosexuals were one step behind.

But of course it was more important for them to be there. A progressive attitude towards homosexuality is now as obligatory an accoutrement for the new Labour activist as a mobile phone. If this goes much farther, it may become necessary for me to become a homophobe.

I hate it when an attitude becomes chic. Apart from an instinctive Bolshevism about any fashionable cause, I worry that once a bandwagon rolls, people join for the wrong reasons. The quality of debate suffers and dubious assumptions go unchallenged. The concept of "equality", for instance, has been most effective as a PR weapon in the fight for gay rights and is now tossed into the argument as if it were itself an argument. How can you be against equality? But we do not call for equality for drink-drivers or wife-beaters. The cause for the blandness of what we defend must be properly made before we can talk of equality.

I suspect, though, that my grumpiness about the gay bandwagon is a result of having been left in the dust myself by its acceleration. In the early 1980s, perhaps at some slight cost to

my own prospects, I attached myself to an argument considered by fellow Conservatives to be futile, self-destructive and silly. As parliamentary vice-presidents of the Conservative Group for Homosexual Equality, the late Martin Stevens and I campaigned for a modest measure of tolerance of homosexuality within our party, and for the Home Office to consider an eventual reduction of the age of consent to 18. I never really weighed the arguments for 16 as the age of consent, or for laws protecting gay partnerships, not because I thought them wrong but because they seemed absurdly avant-garde.

Avant-garde in any party. It was a Labour whip, Walter Harrison, who took me kindly aside in the Strangers' Bar at the Commons in the mid-1980s and advised me to steer well clear of the issue if I wanted to be taken seriously. "Not in this century," we were told by uncensorious but worldly-wise party managers, "may be not in our lifetimes."

Well not, as it turned out, in Martin Stevens's lifetime. Dear Martin died suddenly in 1986, his brave work largely unremarked. At the funeral in his constituency of Fulham, no speaker mentioned his work for the homosexual cause, although we were there among the congregation, we who had worked with him and whom he had so encouraged. At the memorial service for Allan Roberts (until his death in 1990, the Labour MP for Bootle and a frontbencher), Allan's homosexuality was never alluded to.

Nowadays one reads articles, such as Sir Malcolm Rifkind's on this page on Tuesday, sounding a cautionary note on the Tories' "inclusive" approach to gays while allowing, almost as a throwaway line, that of course nobody advocates intolerance. Nobody? Maybe nobody does now, or not openly. But that is partly because of the work of people like Martin. I wonder if Malcolm would have agreed to be guest of honour at one of CGHE's annual dinners in the early 1980s — dinners at which we always had such an embarrassing struggle to get any Commons col-

league to come at all, let alone speak.

I have never sensed any hint of intolerance, personally, in Malcolm Rifkind, but those who warn against further change while allowing, with a shrug, that nobody but a fool takes exception to the status quo, should remind themselves how the status quo became the status quo, and ask themselves where they were when it wasn't. It is for this reason that I have so grateful a recollection of the support of people like Jim Prior, and later Robin Squire and John Bowis (both Tory ministers who lost their seats this May) and the courage of Labour's Chris Smith (who survived) and Maureen Colquhoun (who did not).

Hard though the mobile-phone-brandishing young tigers of new Labour and inclusive Conservatism may find this to believe, Chris Smith, Michael Brown (the Tory MP who lost his seat in May) and I can remember a time when it was not fashionable to be gay. Angela Mason, who as director of Stonewall has led the group through one of the most successful campaigns in modern British lobbying history, might reflect that were it not for herself and her colleagues, politicians' attitudes, less than half a decade ago, were regarded by every wise head as folly are now being called common sense even in *The Daily Telegraph*.

Why so large and apparently sudden a change? It was my experience on such issues at Westminster that when Parliament, on the one hand, and society, on the other, get seriously out of step, MPs' attitudes resemble the logs in those fabled Canadian logjams. The way the world beyond Westminster lives may have moved way outside the frame-work still enshrined by law, but MPs do not seem to register the fact. There are, I think, two reasons for this. First, many MPs do not actually know how the world lives. Most of them watch little television. Some of the older generation of Tories, I found, honestly doubted whether they knew any homosexuals. Secondly, Tory MPs in particular (but working-class Labour MPs too) have

a pathological fear of reactionary populism, and populist views are vastly overrepresented among the party activists with whom, disproportionately, they socialise. The noisy opinions of one taxi driver or one disgruntled ward chairman — cut short, in an MP's ears, the quiet (sometimes silent) practice of thousands of their constituents whom they hardly know.

Thus an MP's position on (for instance) homosexuality gets stuck, and when three or four hundred together get stuck, then, like logs, the impression is of absolute rigidity. That many of these MPs feel less secure in their opinions than they tell each other is obscured. The consensus is thus as shallow as it is apparently rigid.

Then a log moves. Then another. And suddenly the whole jam begins to shift. What follows is a surprising, fast-freeing-up of the whole lot. People begin to tell each other that the new thinking was theirs, too, "all along," but they never said so "as it seemed a hopeless cause."

In 1980, homosexual law reform seemed to me a very hopeless cause. When in 1985 a number of us placed an advertisement in *The Independent* with 200 signatures from public life, opposing the draft Clause 28 then going through Parliament, we little thought our advocacy of "tolerance of the differences between people" would look, less than a decade later, so very unexceptionable.

When, in 1967, 100 prominent people signed that advertisement headed "The law against marijuana is immoral in principle and unworkable in practice" in *The Times*, they probably did hope that, 30 years later, their opinion would seem unexceptionable. But this logjam remains jammed. If Keith Hellawell, perhaps from a change of mind or perhaps fearful lest his post as Tony Blair's "drugs czar" be snatched from him, finds it necessary to retreat from the more liberal views he expressed three years ago as a Chief Constable, we sense those logs are still piling up. Few MPs take drugs; many are gay; with drugs there are further degrees of separation between what MPs say and what their constituents do.

But the higher the log pile and the harder they jam, the more sudden and surprising will be the final rush when the logjam frees. Another 30 years, I think, for marijuana; but that was my forecast for gay rights, nine years ago. Now we have been all but overtaken by the pace of change.

Matthew Parris

Philip Howard



Human facelift, Ma'am? No: your own will do nicely

According to Chris Thomas, our man in Delhi, the Queen is about to launch a human-friendly monarchy when she returns from her state visits. A senior Palace source described the project to him as "monarchy with a human face". This is an understandable reaction to the people's feely-flowery sentimental revolution after the death and sanctification of Diana, Princess of Wales. Though it does raise the question of what sort of face a monarch can wear other than a human one, pray.

The last monarch to mingle freely with his people as an ordinary human being (or, at any rate, as ordinary a human being as can be played by a bluff old admiral) was William IV. He was surprised to succeed to the throne, and delighted by the celebrity it brought. His habit of strolling along the promenade at Brighton saying "What, what?" to all and sundry gave his courtiers kittens, and attracted a large train of all and sundry. So after William died, the royals gave up using the Royal Pavilion, and Victoria put back the regal mask on the face of royalty. Another monarch with a human face was Charles II, who developed a rapid walk and the all-purpose greeting of "God bless you, my good man, God bless you!" to get through the crowd of petitioners in St James's Park without giving anything away. In his day, crowds were more deferential and royal minders were as peremptory as the Roman police.

That dripping cliché about the merits of having a human face rather than a regal or poker or clock face can be traced back to Alexander Dumas, when he said: "We followed a policy so that socialism would not lose its human face." It was given a spin by Ted Heath on the Lorrain affair: "It is the unpleasant and unacceptable face of capitalism." But the question of whether you can find the mind's construction in the face goes back at least four centuries, to the factious spin-doctor of another Elizabeth with both a human and a professionally organised *Faerie Queene* face.

So the monarchy is to have a new, human face. New Labour is a hot-air balloon of nominal newness and no substance. The Conservatives are compassionate, liberal and desperate to be re-elected. All is suddenly renewed. So can we please have our Shakespeare back? Recently Shakespeare has been enlisted for all works. Right-wingers such as Michael Portillo decode him as a Thatcherite nationalist of good old England by partial misreading of Henry V at Harfleur and Ulysses in *Titus Andronicus*. Victor Hugo and anti-establishment academics enlist him as a man of the people and subversive anti-imperialist with a human face. Deconstructionists say that we read whatever baggage we carry with us into Shakespeare. And in a small way, for once the deconstructionists have a point.

The best book about Shakespeare for a generation has just been published. It is *The Genius of Shakespeare* (in both primary senses of *genius*) by Jonathan Bate. It explains how Shakespeare has a human face that suits all characters and fantasies. For he was a working actor, a team player and a hack as well as becoming the international icon (in another two-faced Diana cliché) for whom all the world was his stage. The plays, the characters, the sonnets, the words, each in ambiguity and many faces. You can have Prince Hal and Ulysses and Coriolanus for hierarchy in society. But do not forget jolly Jack Falstaff and the poor bleeding people and even Caliban, who gets the best lines in *The Tempest*. We all fancy ourselves as Hamlet. Why is Macbeth more interesting than Duncan? Is Isabella in *Measure for Measure* a saint or a puritanical prig?

Like Heisenberg's uncertainty principle and Wigner's word games, you can find whatever you want in Shakespeare only by watching, acting and reading him. Horace was another "genius" with many faces. Professor Bate says that Lope de Vega had the same universal face as Shakespeare. My Spanish is not good enough to know, but I must give him another go. The Queen is a war child, trained to keep a poker face and never show emotions in public. Her face is both highly disciplined and Elizabethan, and human when off duty. She could and should not suddenly adopt a Lady Di face. But Shakespeare had a human face for her and all of us.

## Raj charge

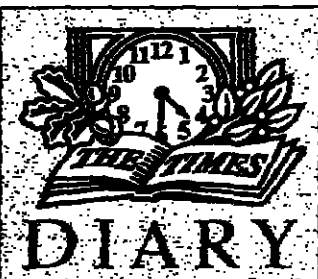
NO SOONER will they have dispatched the Queen from their angry shores than citizens of India will receive an even more colonial British export: 14 descendants of the great Viceroys of India are setting off on a tour of the former Raj. The trip, scheduled for the new year, will be led by the formidable Baroness Flather, who grew up in Lahore. "I've spent seven years at the House of Lords, and I found that there's so much affection for India that I wondered, 'why not do something?'"

So do she did. Invitations were dispatched to some of the biggest nabob names, inviting them on a

ten-day jaunt in the country that their families ruled. Among those coming are the admirable Countess Mountbatten and her husband, Lord Brabourne, the Duke and Duchess of Wellington, Viscount and Viscountess Ridley and Lady Davina Darcy de Knayth (a descendant of the swashbuckling colonialist, Lord Clive).

To charm the natives, the group will attend the Republic Day parade and the presidential reception in Delhi. Despite the embarrassingly anti-British tone of the celebrations and the viceroys' mixed reputations, the baroness expects a warm welcome: "I would not bring them if the Indian Government was uncomfortable. These are delightful people — we do not want to recreate the Raj."

IN one evening, an intruder broke into Buckingham Palace, Clarence House and the home of Lord and Lady Soames. The culprit is black and is known to



prowl around the Stafford Hotel. *St James's* his name? Lucky, a cat. *The Palace* called saying it had our cat, said the hotel. "They wanted to know what to do. We asked them to leave it in Green Park — he can find his way home from there." An hour on, and a



Norris and Wilkinson

similar call from Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's home. Again, *Lady Soames* called saying it had our cat, said the hotel. "They wanted to know what to do. We asked them to leave it in Green Park — he can find his way home from there." An hour on, and a

### Case history

I BET he eats Ferrero Rocher. David Clark, the minister responsible for open government, who was sacked off for failing to declare an agreeable Swiss sojourn, has been pandering to his expensive tastes again. Last week saw him bound for New Zealand to research freedom of information.

While four underlings roughed it in steerage, Clark stretched out in first-class. Sadly, he overestimated the service. The flight took them via Los Angeles, where Clark assumed his luggage would be transferred. It wasn't. Even first-classers, he learnt, should handle their own Louis Vuitton cases. Clark's stayed, leaving him, in unfamiliar pose, shuffling round Auckland in crumpled garb.

SHREWSBURY is to record its school song in Maori. This follows a rendition by Michael Palin, an

old boy who sang it in Latin to New Zealand natives while filming. A recording will be sent to Christchurch. Problem: finding a Maori speaker in Shrewsbury.

### Naked truth

STEVEN NORRIS's greatest contribution to public life was his inability to keep his trousers up. How appropriate then that he should be mistaken for a stripper in *The Full Monty*.

To the former Transport Minister's chagrin, his double is Tom Wilkinson, who plays the professional disorder Gerald and has an unenviable weakness for garden gnomes. "Having viewed *The Full Monty* routine," says a Norris associate, "he is confident there is positive proof that he and Mr. Wilkinson are in no way related." What proof I wonder?

### Rock bottom

POP music is to reverberate around our military bases in a desperate attempt by the Ministry of Defence to raise money. George Robertson, Defence Secretary, has hit upon the plan after Gordon Brown's raid on his coffers.

First on will be the Verve, psychedelic rockers currently No 1 in



Battle cry: the Verve

the album charts. They are negotiating with the Ministry for permission to use defunct airfields and dry docks for a tour. "I am not too familiar with their music," admits Robertson. This happy situation is about to end. Alasdair McGowan, his special adviser, has a weakness for the group as a copy of its latest work, *Urban Hymns*, is winging its way into the minister's red box. But as Robertson may contend, anything to raise money.

JASPER GERARD





## THE WRONG SPIN

Do not throw the briefers out with the bathwater

Putting the Government's policies in the best light is one thing; putting the previous Government's policies in the worst light is another. Departmental heads of information are leaving their posts in droves, partly as a reaction to the new administration's attitude to media management. The early enthusiasm for a change in government has turned markedly sour.

The latest to go is Jonathan Haslam, formerly John Major's press secretary but, since the election, chief information officer at the Department for Education and Employment. His departure for a job in the City was hastened by a disagreement with Stephen Byers, Minister for School Standards. Mr Byers asked him to draft a press release criticising the Conservative Government's education policy. Mr Haslam refused, rightly insisting that this was a party matter.

Government press officers are certainly ripe for modernisation. When Labour ministers came to power, they were shocked by how plodding many of their spokesmen were. The tools of modern communication, such as the pager, the mobile phone and even the home number for evenings and weekends, seemed virtually unknown in Whitehall. They clearly had things to learn from their new masters, and Alistair Campbell, Tony Blair's highly political press secretary, set out to train them.

Some were not going to change; they have been dropped down the Whitehall plug-hole. But to lose someone of the calibre of Mr Haslam smacks of carelessness. He might have left anyway, since no other Whitehall job would match his previous one at the side of the Prime Minister. But he is clearly disillusioned too; and his malaise springs not from Luddism but from principle. The principle that he has upheld — the independence and integrity of the Civil Service — is vital, not just for the good of the country but

also for the good of the Government. Political partisans often find it hard to understand the concept of neutrality — or even the concept that there is more than one way to see a speech, interpret a report or analyse a set of events. If people are not with them, then they are seen as against them.

Some new ministers have been keeping their press officers poorly informed, preferring to use their politically appointed special advisers to brief journalists. In turn, reporters have been using these advisers more because the official press officers are often not fully apprised of what their ministers are doing or planning.

Ministers may think that they are better served by politicised spokesmen, but their partisan approach may soon begin to backfire on the Government. Journalists understand the subtleties of media manipulation and can graduate the degrees of truth they encounter from the system. When a senior political adviser admits in a television programme to lying to journalists, he debases the coinage of his trade and risks the charge that every word is counterfeit. Chief information officers have at least traditionally been trusted not to lie; and if Downing Street instructs them to deny stories that are true, but inconvenient, this will diminish their credibility. Trust is hard earned, and easily lost.

The effectiveness of "spinning" is heavily correlated with the perceived success and competence of a government. In the dying days of the last administration, no amount of spin could turn a bad story into a good one. This Government, still widely applauded, has a generally high credibility. But when times are hard, as undoubtedly they will be at some point in the coming five years, ministers may rue relying too heavily on their political servants. The credibility of their officials will then be at a premium.

## THE COLOUR OF MONEY

Disclosure should be the key principle in party finance

Money may make the world go round but its effect on British politics is less predictable. Tony Blair yesterday announced that the Government would introduce legislation to ban foreign donations to political parties and compel contributions over £5,000 to be made public. He also revealed that Sir Patrick Neill would succeed Lord Nolan as chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life. That body will now examine all aspects of party political finance. Sir Patrick is a man of independence and integrity. He would be wise to consider the limits as well as the attractions of more sweeping reform.

To some extent, the committee is being asked to investigate an area where the sources of greatest contention have already passed. The capacity of the Conservatives to accept substantial sums from overseas supporters substantially diminished once Hong Kong returned to China. The extreme disparity in the resources of the two main parties — sharply evident in the early 1980s — has already been eliminated. The Tories, not Labour, are deep in the red. That transformation illustrates an extremely important factor. Money in British politics follows success; it does not create it.

This country already operates a restrictive party finance regime. Expenditure at the constituency level is exceptionally modest. Access to television advertising beyond party election broadcasts is impossible — and properly so. As a consequence our elections are relatively inexpensive and in real terms their level has been broadly stable. There is little evidence that massive spending has any impact on the final parliamentary outcome. If it did then John Major and the Conservatives would probably still be in office. The Referendum Party might well be the official Opposition.

That does not mean that there is no room

for improvement. Mr Blair has emphasised the importance of transparency. Over the past 20 years, not least because of Margaret Thatcher, the climate of opinion has swung strongly against self-regulation. Almost all the professions have been forced to adjust to this new era of external scrutiny. Somewhat reluctantly, MPs were obliged to acknowledge this shift after the first Nolan committee report. Political parties must move in the same, more open, direction. For that reason the two proposals outlined by the Prime Minister deserve cross-party support.

The Neill committee should resist, however, those who will demand a more extensive set of regulations. There are only two difficulties with capping the total amounts spent by parties during election campaigns: principle and practice. It is objectionable in principle to restrict artificially the sums that parties may spend and hence that individuals can subscribe. It will also be entirely impractical to do so. If potential donors cannot support their chosen parties directly they will find other means of achieving the same end. The recent history of American political finance illustrates that truth.

Indeed, the most tragic element of the American melodrama is that the drive to avoid spending limits has undermined the openness that had once been so effective. Britain should avoid the same fate. The public interest is best served by strict disclosure that allows outsiders to compare funds received with favours dispensed. That is real accountability. There might also be a case for tax incentives to encourage the mass membership drives that Labour under Mr Blair has started and the Tories must now follow. The dependence of both main parties on sectional interests should be discouraged. But the best solution is enhanced participation, not unenforceable regulation.

## MOTHERS IN LAW

The serpent's tooth and the lawsuit of a child

Patrick Macdonald, a law student at Aberdeen University, has been granted legal aid to sue his mother for the living expenses required to complete his degree. Others are already following his example. Mr Macdonald's mother is a Scottish Office civil servant whose two eldest daughters are supporting themselves at university and whose other two children are being privately educated at her expense. Her son chose, after his mother's divorce, to live with his bankrupt father. It may be that Mrs Macdonald could find from within her £45,000 salary the resources to support the son who is unhappy lying on the bed he made. That should, however, be a matter for her conscience and not the courts.

That a son should sue his mother in this way is more than just an offence to filial piety. It is a grotesque misuse of the legal system. Mr Macdonald is within his rights under the Scottish Family Law Act of 1985 but that does not make his actions right. He protests that he has to go to law because he does not wish to go into debt. A proper horror of indebtedness is a decent Scots prejudice but when it leads a man to use the blunt instrument of a writ to bludgeon money from his mother it becomes not proper prudence but ugly selfishness. What makes Mr Macdonald's meanness of spirit worse is the automatic presumption on his part that someone else should pay for his salad days. How much sharper than a

serpent's tooth is the lawsuit of an ungrateful child. The party is over for students who expected to be subsidised throughout four years of undergraduate existence only to move on to employment much more lucrative than those of their contemporaries who started paying income tax as soon as they left school. The Government's proposed reform of higher education will, rightly, force all but the very poorest students to contribute something to the costs of an education which boosts their future earning potential. If individuals wish to cash in on the benefits of a university education, and few study law as a prelude to missionary work, then they must be prepared to borrow for their investment.

Parents, if they can, may wish to support their children at university. Those who have the resources to do so, and choose not to, should certainly be thought the less of. Affection should not diminish with the end of adolescence. But enforced responsibility should. Parents should not be expected in law to indulge their adult offspring any more than grown-up children should be forced in law to turn up for Christmas lunch. The greatest absurdity, however, is having the taxpayer foot the bill for an act which is destructive of any affection on which a family must depend and which will see the law swallow money which was supposed to be saved from the universities.

## Patent protection in genetic research

From the Chairman of the Association of Medical Research Charities and others

Sir, On October 17 the UK Patent Office holds a consultative meeting over the proposed European Biotechnology Patenting Directive, which the European Parliament overwhelmingly endorsed in July after more than eight years of vigorous debate. The directive seeks to harmonise existing patent law in Europe with reference to biotechnological inventions.

It is absolutely right to ensure that every group and individual has the opportunity to make their views known — and in the course of the debate thus far all the interested parties have put forward their views and been heard. The text accepted by the European Parliament in July (by a vote of 388 to 110) had been significantly improved since its reading in 1995: patents will not be granted for human cloning or human embryo experiments; there is provision for an ethics committee; and further protection is given to animal welfare and the rights of indigenous peoples.

The new Government, and in particular the Science Minister, John Birt, made their support for the directive clear both before and after the British election. We fully endorse their position. All those engaged in medical research — charities, government and industry — believe that genetic research should benefit patients as quickly as possible. Patents help to achieve this.

Without Britain's support biotechnology research will be at risk. If Britain's biotechnology industry (currently the world's second largest after the US and set to generate £9 billion in revenue by the year 2000) falters or fails, the time horizon will extend considerably for understanding and developing new treatments for diseases such as schizophrenia, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, cancer, diabetes and osteoporosis.

If we strip away the patentability which existing law allows biotechnological invention, we will see research funding slowly disappear or remove itself to the US and Japan where scientific innovation will continue to be supported. If that happens, not only will Britain and Europe lose money and jobs, but the world will find that the chances of discovering new ways of diagnosing, preventing and treating life-threatening illnesses will be severely limited.

Approval of the biotechnology directive is a vital step in securing a better future for everyone. We urge Britain and the 14 other EU member states to move rapidly and adopt it.

Yours faithfully,  
EERGUS LOGAN,  
Chairman, The Association of Medical Research Charities.  
DAVID BARNES,  
Chief Executive, Zeneca Group plc.  
ANDREW BLAKE,  
Director,  
Serious Ills for Medical Research.  
JAN LESCHLY,  
Chief Executive Officer,  
SmithKline Beecham plc.  
MICHAEL J. REISS,  
Senior Lecturer in Biology,  
Homerton College, Cambridge.  
TIM ROBERTS,  
Chairman, The Chartered Institute of Patent Agents.  
RICHARD SYKES,  
Chairman and Chief Executive,  
Glaxo Wellcome plc.  
Association of Medical Research Charities,  
29-35 Farringdon Road, EC1.  
October 16.

## Sound investment

From Mr David H. Walton

Sir, Congratulations to Mr Richard Noble and his dedicated crew in being the first to exceed Mach 1 on the ground (report, October 14). However, I find it chastening to conclude, from remarks he made in a recent radio interview, that these people may have received more assistance from King Hussein and the people of Jordan, who provided them with a test track, than they did from the City of London.

I am surprised that we have any engineering industry left at all.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID H. WALTON,  
10 St Guthrie's Close, Crowland,  
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.  
October 14.

## Britannia decision

From Lord Ashbourne

Sir, Final confirmation from the MoD of its decision to decommission *HMV Britannia*, with no provision for her replacement (report, October 11), is both short-sighted and ill-judged.

According to the ministry's own plans for a new Royal Yacht, she would cost a maximum of £64 million to build — slightly less than the weekly cost of our membership of the European Union which, according to the Office for National Statistics, is £66 million.

Yours faithfully,  
ASHBOURNE  
(Chairman, All Party Yacht Parliamentary Group),  
House of Lords.  
October 13.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Memorial garden in a modern spirit

From Mr Charles Jencks

Sir, The idea of a memorial garden for Diana, Princess of Wales, is very fitting (Weekend, October 11): as the saying goes "take your grief to nature", and the banal landscape in front of Kensington Palace asks for some imaginative scheme. However, an 18th-century Dutch replica is not appropriate at all.

I agree with John Dixon Hunt, Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania, that a competition should be called for a contemporary creation which engages the public, as Diana did. A revival, based on Hauduroy's 1708 aerial sketch, would not only be too far and low in elevation, but also would not provide the variety of open spaces and mystery which are needed in a memorial garden.

Some contemporary works of art, some dramatic celebration of nature — water gardens, level changes, kinetic sculpture — would feel constrained and lonely in the centre of Hauduroy's flat pastures. Above all, this design does not have those private, contemplative and sometimes wild spaces which are essential to thoughtful recollection.

Sincerely,  
CHARLES JENCKS,  
19 Lansdowne Walk, W11.  
October 13.

From Mr Richard Weston,  
FRSA, RIBA

Sir, In the 18th century, disdain for the formality and "princely pomp" of

gardens in the Dutch and French styles was the catalyst for our most radical contribution to the visual arts: the English landscape garden, initiated around the world, gave form to a new political as much as aesthetic vision.

After years of marginalisation, landscape design is alive with new ideas. A contemporary garden in memory of Diana would be a fitting tribute to her modernity and an emblem of the Government's commitment to promoting creativity as a defining feature of a "new Britain".

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD WESTON  
(Landscape architect),  
Radiant World,  
57 Lamborne Road, Leicester,  
October 12.

From Mr Peter King

Sir, The proposal to recreate the historic gardens at Kensington Palace should be supported as, albeit, there is no contemporary designer who has a background of work on such a grand scale. However, its execution should perhaps be given to the team which completed the highly-praised Privy Garden at Hampton Court, rather than leaving it in the hands of the Royal Parks Agency.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER KING  
(Editor, *The Good Gardens Guide*),  
Nicholas Corner,  
Sibford Gower,  
Banbury, Oxfordshire.  
October 15.

World Wide Fund for Nature to advocate.

Yours sincerely,  
HEW BALFOUR,  
Ruchlaw House,  
Stenton, Dunbar, East Lothian.

From Mr Duff Hart-Davis

Sir, During his 20-year ownership of the estate, from the mid-1960s to the mid-1980s, the late Lord Dufferin made enormous efforts to reforest Glenfeshie, putting in numerous plantations and shelter-belts. It is true that most of the trees were exotic species, like sika spruce and lodgepole pine, but he also got estate staff to collect seed from old Scots pines and to create a new plantation of the very species which constituted the ancient Caledonian forest.

The fact that the estate is now on the market for the third time in a few years reflects the great difficulty of managing a property in which outside environmental organisations have a say. In the words of a local stalker, the present owners are selling "because of the hassle caused by Scottish Natural Heritage and numerous other pumped-up bodies round about".

Yours sincerely,  
DUFF HART-DAVIS,  
Owpen Farm, Uley, Gloucestershire.  
October 14.

From Mrs Jelena Radonjic

Sir, In the international recruitment marketplace any young engineer or economist is expected to have two or more languages in addition to their technical training or business qualification.

Right now, the hottest language is Japanese. Indeed, there is something of a gold rush on for Japanese speakers as European and US banks gear up for the deregulation of the Japanese banking sector.

My advice on the best language for young people to study now is simple: Mandarin. Sooner than we think, Western companies are going to need a lot of young professionals who speak Mandarin and understand Chinese culture. But I don't think they will find too many of them here in Britain.

Yours sincerely,  
JELENA RADONJIC  
(Associate Managing Director),  
The International Career Forum,  
DICR Europe Ltd,  
125 New Bond Street, W1.  
October 14.

## An Ulster head

From Mr Jeffrey Dudgeon

Sir, I found it impossible to recognise the description of Campbell College, Belfast, in Stuart Peebles's letter (October 14), in revisionist praise of its headmaster, John Cook (obituary, October 2). I too was a pupil in the early Sixties, for five grim years, and recall speaking only once to Mr Cook — on the day I left.

Throughout those years a system of terror and punishment operated in the form of beatings inflicted by other boys. The teachers were freed from the task of enforcing discipline by these *kapos*, and tended as a consequence to indolence and cynicism.

The unadulterated snottiness of the school and its distance from all things local created a class of boys who could only see themselves as little Englishers, trapped in a 1920s time warp, and incapable of modernising the Belfast Establishment from which most came.

Yours sincerely,  
JEFFREY DUDGEON,  
56 Mount Prospect Park, Belfast.  
October 15.

## Mixed doubles

From Mr Geoffrey H. Lloyd

Sir, Your correspondent Paul Foster (letter, October 14) and his colleagues in the local tennis club appear to have got themselves into an unnecessary dilemma when the solution was obvious. Did they not consider the option to abandon the discount for married couples?

Presumably individual husbands and wives use the courts no less intensively than others in different relationships. And they may or may not love each other. What is the economic and moral justification for the concession?

Yours sincerely,  
GEOFFREY H. LLOYD,  
Longacre, 73 High Street,  
Little Wiltshire, Cambridge.  
October 15.

From Dr John Burscough

Sir, I suspect that few tennis clubs could organise a mixed doubles tournament if only partners who loved each other were allowed to play.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN BURSCOUGH,  
Woodland View, Melton Road,  
Wrawby, Brigg, North Lincolnshire.  
October 14.

## Many good tunes on new fiddles

From Lord Menuhin, OM

Sir, While I have been in Beijing conducting the excellent National Orchestra, my wife, Diana, who gleans *The Times* to keep me the better informed when I am away, reports a lively discussion on the matter of funding for good instruments for orchestral string players (report, October 13).

Great instruments of the 18th and even 19th centuries are admittedly better the reach of almost any string player. Partly owing to their astronomical prices there is a growing number of excellent, first-class violin-makers today, in England as elsewhere, who make a fair living on selling some ten violins a year at say £6,000-£8,000 each. I myself use a Glen Collins — but there are also others, some from the Newark Technical College.

It may surprise some orchestral musicians that among the fabled sumptuous-toned strings of the Philadelphia Orchestra there are some twenty violins from Sergio Peresson — a local maker near Philadelphia.

I have recorded the Brahms viola sonatas on a David Wiebe, and have given my school a cello and a viola by this excellent maker in Nebraska.

I would strongly urge donors or sponsors who would further these two arts in tandem — violin-making and violin-playing — to collect first-rate contemporary instruments and make them easily available, lending or on instalment purchase without interest, to such players as cannot afford a good instrument.

Yours faithfully,  
SHERUD MENUHIN,  
As from, SYM Music Company,  
PO Box 6160, London SW1W 0XJ.  
October 14.

## Brum culture

From Mr Stephen Wildman

Sir, While it is true that many famous Brummies, from Burne-Jones to Tony Hancock, left their native city for good to prosper in the capital (letters, October 8, 13), there is a notable exception in the painter David Cox (1783-1859), who returned from London to spend the last 18 years of his life in the then rural outskirts — *Heaven*.

Cox certainly achieved national recognition, and was rightly praised on his death by one leading magazine (*The Art Journal*) as having possessed "a genius as original as that of Turner". This was all the more remarkable in that he did indeed emanate from the heart of industrial Birmingham, having been born in Heath Mill Lane, Deritend, where his blacksmith father Joseph had a forge, a breeding ground for one romantic at least.

Yours faithfully,  
STEPHEN WILDMAN  
(Curator), Ruskin Library,  
Lancaster University,  
Lancaster LA1 4YH.  
s.wildman@lancaster.ac.uk  
October 13.

From Mr Jim Platts

Sir, The 1828 Charter of the Institution of Civil Engineers (the oldest professional engineering institution in the world) defines engineering as "the art of directing the great sources of power in nature for the use and convenience of man".

Engineering uses science and embodies an ethic, but it is an art — and Birmingham has many world-renowned exponents of that art. Will Morgan (letter, October 8) can lift his Brummie head with pride.

Yours faithfully,  
JIM PLATTS,  
Manufacturing Engineering Group,  
Cambridge University,  
Mill Lane, Cambridge.  
mjp@eng.cam.ac.uk

## Not out

From Mr Mike Johnson

Sir, Mr Trevor Davies (letter, October 7; see also letter, October 11) is not the only one to have had a bizarre experience on an answerphone.

I recently called someone on their car telephone, to be answered by a machine. The message was "I'm sorry, I'm at home at the moment, but if you leave a message I'll call you as soon as I go out."

Yours faithfully,  
MIKE JOHNSON,  
43 Melrose Avenue,  
Wimbledon Park, SW19.  
mikejohnson@btinternet.com  
October 11.

## Rowse remembered

From the Reverend David Copley

Sir, My brother-in-law once told me of a snippet of conversation he heard when he was passing two men talking to each other in Oxford. "But of course the later history of Sparta..." were the magic words.

With that in mind I thought I would pick up a wise word or two when one day in Oxford in the late 1940s I saw A. L. Rowse (obituary, October 6) deep in conversation with a companion coming towards me. As they passed I heard Rowse say: "Yes, my braces are always getting in a twist too."

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID COPLEY,  
220 Bromsgrove Road, Hunnington,  
Halesowen, West Midlands.  
October 12.











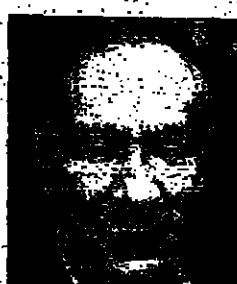
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# THE TIMES

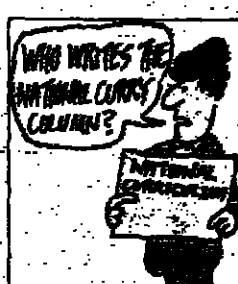
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TODAY



## BUSINESS

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falls to the US  
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Everybody has  
a question for the  
local teacher  
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY OCTOBER 17, 1997

Tim Waterstone 'appalled' at sell-off after second offer is rejected

## WH Smith in demerger U-turn

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM, RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

WH SMITH performed a strategic U-turn yesterday after rejecting a second set of takeover proposals from Tim Waterstone, the founder of the group's bookstore chain.

Jeremy Hardie, chairman of WH Smith, who six weeks ago ruled out a break-up of the retail group, revealed plans to demerge the Waterstone's business and to sell its Virgin/Our Price music business and The Wall, its US music business.

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weeks ago, denied that Mr Waterstone's approaches had forced a reverse in strategy, although he said they had spurred on the process of change. "The process has been going on for a considerable period of time, not just the last two weeks," he said.

The company said that the new version of Mr Waterstone's original plan, which it threw out on October 1, "does not make an significant difference to the original proposals". They were therefore "unanimously rejected on the basis that they are not in the best interest of shareholders, do not create any significant value and are not financially sound".

WH Smith's plan received a lukewarm response from the market. The shares closed up just 3 1/2 p at 405 1/2 p, supported by hopes that a buyer would emerge for Waterstone's before it is demerged. Tony Shiret, retail analyst at BZW, said that Waterstone's and Virgin/Our Price would both compete head-on with the



Book sale: Jeremy Hardie, pictured, announced that Waterstone's shops are to be sold off

main WH Smith chain. However, better operational management of the WH Smith chain should lead to some improvements in the currently poor margins, he said.

He said a buyer, perhaps one of the leading US book chains currently eyeing the British market, is likely to appear for Waterstone's. Other analysts were more scepti-

cal, saying that US businesses were loath to pay the high prices that successful British retail businesses command.

Alan Giles, who now runs Waterstone's, is set to be chief executive of the chain after he demerges the 106-store business next spring. It is expected to be valued at between £300 million and £350 million. Mr Hardie said that, apart



from losing Mr Giles, no other changes are expected at WH Smith's board. He said that he had come under no pressure to quit and has no intention of leaving the group.

Mr Waterstone and his partner, Ian Gibson, the chairman of Unigate, said that they would not be making a hostile bid although they remain keen to talk to the board about their

proposal. Mr Waterstone said: "I am and I am genuinely saddened by today's developments."

He criticised WH Smith's new strategy: "It appalls me that WH Smith's solution is to package Waterstone's in a fashion in which it can, and almost certainly will, be sold to the highest bidder in a fashion that is tax efficient to the shareholders. This may create short-term value, but to take the best performing retail brand out of the portfolio makes no sense whatsoever."

Virgin, which recently indicated it would pay up to £135 million to buy WH Smith's share of the Virgin/Our Price business, of which it owns 25 per cent, is still seen as the most likely buyer. However, the complexities of the joint venture agreement could make a quick sale unlikely. Selling The Wall is expected to also be a lengthy business because of the poor state of the US music market.

WH Smith retail, run by Beverley Hodson, will concentrate on books, stationery and magazines.

## Clarke to join BAT as £23bn link is agreed

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH CLARKE, the cigar-loving former Chancellor, is to become a non-executive deputy chairman of British American Tobacco, his third City directorship since he lost the Conservative Party leadership battle.

The news came as BAT Industries confirmed the £23 billion merger of its financial services arm with Zurich Group, the Swiss insurer. Earl Cairns, who is chairman of BAT Industries and will head the UK-listed end of the new Zurich Financial Services (ZF Group), cautioned that there would be "some initial reduction", perhaps up to 20 per cent, in the initial dividend payout.

ZF Group will pay BAT £500 million, take on £800 million of debt and take over Eagle Star, Allied Dunbar, Farmers of the US and Threadneedle. Rolf Hüppi, chairman and chief executive of Zurich Group, will head the ZF Group. He intends to keep the UK brands intact.

Martin Broughton, currently deputy chairman of BAT, will be chairman of British American Tobacco. The tobacco business will restructure their £4 billion debt, while the operations of Zurich and British American Financial Services (BAFS) will be transferred to a new Zurich-based company.

Mr Hüppi declined to discuss how many of the 66,000 staff in the merged company would lose their jobs.

ZF Group will be one of the world's biggest insurers with \$342 billion (£211 billion) under management. Zurich shareholders will own 55 per cent of the new company and BAT shareholders 45 per cent.

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City Diary, page 29

## BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FTSE 100	5287.9 (+24.2)
Yield	3.05%
FTSE All share	2657.28 (+11.90)
Nikkei	17707.49 (+378.12)
New York	8048.85 (-9.33)
Dow Jones	967.32 (+1.50)
S&P Composite	967.32 (+1.50)
US RATE	
Federal Funds	5 1/8% (5 1/8%)
Long Bond	100 1/8% (99 1/8%)
Yield	6.35% (6.40%)
LONDON MONEY	
3-month Interbank	7 1/4% (7 1/4%)
Libor long gilt	11 1/8% (11 1/8%)
Libor short gilt	11 1/8% (11 1/8%)
STERLING	
New York	1.6187* (1.6232)
London	1.6204 (1.6238)
Frankfurt	2.8555 (2.8434)
Paris	9.4808 (9.5292)
FF	2.8572 (2.8704)
Yen	120.40 (121.05)
£ Index	99.8 (100.3)
DOLLAR	
London	1.7463* (1.7471)
Frankfurt	5.8538* (5.8575)
FF	1.4552* (1.4580)
Yen	120.40 (121.05)
£ Index	104.2 (105.1)
Tokyo close Yen 120.40	
NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent 15-day (Dec)	\$19.85 (\$19.55)
1994	
London close	\$326.45 (\$326.75)
* denotes midday trading price	

## Volatile pound to keep euro at distance

BY JANET RUSE AND ALASDAIR MURRAY

STERLING'S recent volatility makes it unrealistic for Britain to join the single European currency in 1999, Wim Duisenberg, President of the European Monetary Institute, said yesterday.

The institute, which is due to become the European Central Bank at the start of economic and monetary union, will be an important voice in next year's deliberations about which countries will join the euro in the first wave.

In a German newspaper yesterday, Mr Duisenberg made it clear that he takes seriously the provision of the Maastricht treaty that calls for a stable exchange rate for at least two years before joining the single currency. "I would consider it important for the British to be able to demonstrate exchange-rate stability over several years and for at least two years. So far, however, we have seen nothing but sizeable fluctuations," he said.

His remarks coincide with comments by Andrew Sentance, director of the Centre for Economic Forecasting at the London Business School, arguing that recent volatility of the pound virtually rules out UK EMU entry in 1999.

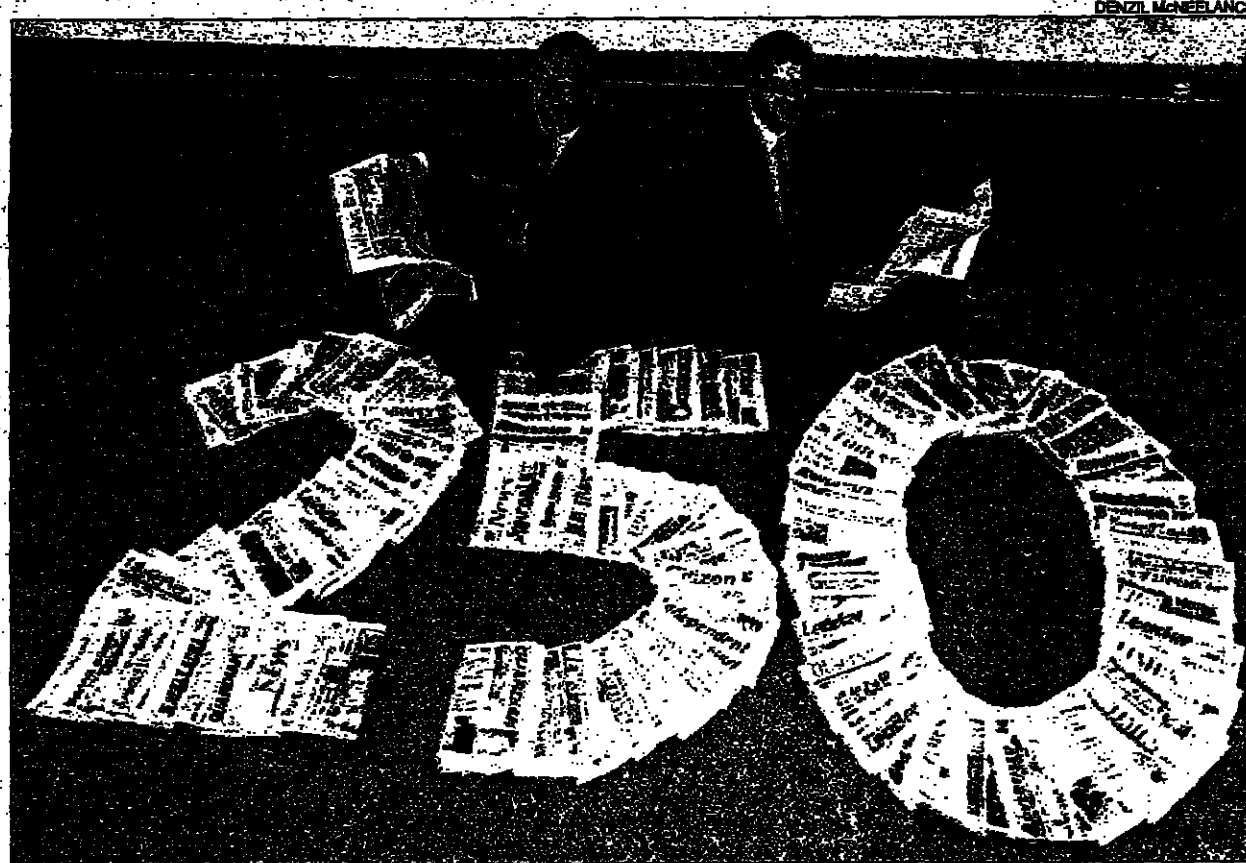
The British Chambers of Commerce yesterday also urged the Government to make a clear statement of intent on joining EMU.

The pound closed at 99.8 on its effective index, compared with 100.3 on Wednesday, and its peak in July of 106.7.

Economists remain confident that the Government is on course to meet its full-year targets even though the public sector borrowing requirement was about £1 billion higher than expected at £3.1 billion, against £2.4 billion last September.

But the PSBR for the first six months of this year was £6.6 billion, compared with £15.7 billion at the same stage last year. Excluding privatisation receipts, the half-yearly PSBR is at its lowest level since 1990.

Commentary, page 27



Paper tigers: Jim Brown, left, Newsquest chairman, celebrating yesterday's flotation with John Pfeil, finance director

## Newsquest value set at £500m

BY OUR MEDIA EDITOR

SHARES of Newsquest, the local newspaper group, ended their first day of stock market trading at 252 1/2 p yesterday, putting a value of £500 million on the company.

The share offering, which was oversubscribed, was priced at 250p for its stock market debut — the lower end of the expected range — and raised a total of £100 million.

Jim Brown, executive

chairman of Newsquest, said that he was pleased at the successful float in what he said were "very difficult market conditions".

More than 80 per cent of Newsquest staff subscribed for shares. The market valued Newsquest shares at an 8 per cent discount to Trinity International, a rival newspaper group, and at a near-12 per cent discount to Johnson

Press. Commenting on the gentle start to trading yesterday, Mr Brown said: "I suspect that once the market sees the value in the business the shares will move up."

The company has around £190 million in debt from the original management buyout from Reed Elsevier and the acquisition of the Westminster Press regional newspaper

group from Pearson. Part of the £100 million raised will go to reducing debt and part to fund future development.

Following the flotation, RNN Associated, a partnership organised by Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, holds 40.4 per cent of the company, and Civen 14.3 per cent. The management owns 3.7 per cent of the company.

Tempos, page 28

## GTE faces curbs on \$28bn alliance

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

AT&T, the largest US telephone group, is lobbying the US regulators to impose strict conditions if they allow GTE's \$28 billion (£17.5 billion) bid for MCI to go ahead.

The bid, if successful, will resurrect BT's global strategy as it is likely to play a major role in the new GTE-MCI alliance. According to insiders, GTE has been in contact with BT since the WorldCom bid two weeks ago.

BT is believed to have co-operated with GTE to launch what could turn out to be a white knight rescue. A US link-up is a key part of BT's strategy to transform itself into a global heavyweight in telecommunications.

A three-way deal would give BT a US partner with a local and long-distance capacity to rival AT&T. Andy Moffat, analyst at Société Générale, the broker, said: "It's a much stronger outcome than the MCI merger. They are now getting a partner who is a major US player."

AT&T said: "We fully expect the Government to require GTE to get serious about opening its local markets to real competition and to stop erecting economic roadblocks to the speedy implementation of the 1996 Telecommunications Act". The deregulatory Act sparked the merger frenzy.

Tempos, page 28

## Big investors unhappy over £1.5bn T&N bid

BY CARL MORTIMER

FEDERAL-MOGUL'S £1.5 billion bid for T&N, the motor parts manufacturer, received a less than rapturous reception from leading shareholders. Yesterday's recommended bid, struck at 260p per share, is an 11 per cent increase on Federal-Mogul's indicative offer, revealed last month. The price was then roundly rejected by PPFM, M&G and Schroders, who together own almost half of the company.

One leading shareholder said: "We don't think this fully reflects the value of the company. The question is: do we take what's on offer now or do we wait for T&N to get there on its own?"

T&N will declare a final dividend of 3p, providing accepting shareholders with 263p per share. Sir Colin Hope, chairman, who will become international adviser to Federal-Mogul, said it was

a good deal for Federal-Mogul and said he had discussed the bid with "all of the leading chief executives in the industry". He said: "Bearing in mind the extent to which the stock market has undervalued T&N, the cash offer is at a level which the board of T&N can recommend to shareholders."

Federal-Mogul's £1.5 billion bid is being financed with a bridging loan from Chase Manhattan which is expected to be refinanced with equity.

Dick Snell, Federal-Mogul's chairman, expects to achieve \$100 million (£62 million) of annual savings from the takeover in the second year. The merged company will have a 90 per cent share in the US bearings market.

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Success story, page 29

## Share rights lift chief's pay to £6.8m at BSkyB

BY RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR

SAM CHISHOLM, who retires as chief executive of British Sky Broadcasting at the end of this year, pushed his take-home pay to a record in 1997 — of £6.8 million. The package compares with £3.94 million last year. The main reason for the rise is that Mr Chisholm exercised a right to 1.7 million "bonus shares" arising from the BSkyB flotation, which led to a profit of £3.12 million.

After he retires, Mr Chisholm will remain a non-executive director for two years and will receive his full pay under a revised service agreement for an average of ten days' work a month. Mr Chisholm will continue to receive 0.5 per cent of BSkyB's profits under the senior management bonus scheme, expected to be worth at least £1.5 million a year. He also has rights to

more than 750,000 shares at an option price of £5.675 a share, which means they are currently worthless. BSkyB shares ended at 462 1/2 p yesterday.

David Chance, deputy managing director of BSkyB, in which News International, owner of The Times, has a 40 per cent stake, received total payments of £3.05 million in the year to June, up from £2.65 million. Mr Chance, who is also leaving at the end of this year, will remain as a consultant to the satellite company for 12 months, for an average of ten days a month. He will be paid per working day based on his existing salary and entitlement in the management bonus scheme.

Elisabeth Murdoch, BSkyB general manager and an alternate director, had total remuneration, including pension, of £298,103.

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YOUR NOTE IS AT RISK IF YOU DON'T KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE. IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP UP REPAYMENTS.





David Jones, the entrepreneur who founded ShareLink, surveying work at his creation, whose American parent company is renaming it to reflect an international strategy

## US parent to rename ShareLink broker

By Richard Miles

SHARELINK, the telephone-based stockbroker founded in 1987, is to disappear at the end of this year. Its American parent, Charles Schwab, yesterday said it is to drop the ShareLink name in favour of its own.

Charles Schwab, a US brokerage, bought ShareLink two years ago from its founder, David Jones, for £39.5 million, and now wants to use it as a springboard for expansion into continental Europe.

Guy Knight, vice-president, said that the name ShareLink did not fit Charles Schwab's wider ambitions, which could lead the broker into institutional business, as well as extending its services to wealthy private investors. "We are the UK division of an international company, and we are more and more looking for international growth," he said, adding that Charles Schwab had set itself the goal of growing its \$350 billion of customer assets to \$1 trillion by 2005.

ShareLink, to be rebranded Charles Schwab Europe by the end of the year, has been criticised for poor service standards, with many clients complaining that its telephone lines were always engaged.

## BCC voices concern over effects of strong pound

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

THE British Chambers of Commerce said yesterday that manufacturers' profits and confidence were suffering from a sharp decline in export activity caused by the strong pound and stiff domestic competition.

Manufacturing exports are at their lowest since the third quarter of 1992 although the service sector remains buoyant.

David Richardson, BCC president, said: "The exceptionally high level of sterling

earlier in the year dealt a savage blow to the UK manufacturing industry, the effects of which are now beginning to feed through as manufacturers begin to lose ground to increasing levels of foreign competition, both at home and overseas.

"A sharp decline in the levels of home and export orders taken over the last three months indicates that the situation is not likely to improve in the short term."

The BCC said that manufac-

turers were absorbing rising costs by reducing profits and in that context interest rates "should stay where they are for the time being". Rates should stay "as low as possible" since any new rise would push sterling up still further.

Ian Peters, BCC deputy director-general, said business did not believe that the pound could be talked down in the long term although it accepted that positive indications on economic and monetary union

had helped to ease the pressure on industry from high sterling.

But he added: "A statement from the Chancellor making clear our intentions with regard to EMU (those intentions should be that we should not enter in the first wave but at a later point) would help reduce the value of the pound."

The BCC's latest survey of almost 8,000 companies shows a "significant deterioration" in export sales, with manufacturers' exports now

falling. It said the warnings business had been giving about the strength of the pound were now coming true.

Having lost export orders, manufacturers would find it very difficult to regain them, particularly since strong domestic activity meant that imports made more attractive by sterling's strength were being sucked into the UK economy, with the result that only a third of manufacturers were forecasting improving profitability.

## Promising vaccine boosts Medeva

By Paul Durman

MEDEVA, the pharmaceuticals company, plans to file for regulatory approval of the hepatitis B vaccine that is potentially its most important product to date.

The company, best known for its methylphenidate treatment for hyperactive children, yesterday released trial results that suggested its Hepagene vaccine has some significant

benefits over existing products. It also reported results that suggest Hepagene can be used to "cure" chronic carriers of the hepatitis B virus.

Medeva hopes to take 20 to 30 per cent of the vaccine market. If approval is granted, it may be able to start selling the vaccine by the end of 1999. Medeva shares rose 20p to 245p.

## Electricity bills to fall £24

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

ELECTRICITY bills will be cut by an average £24 over the next two years, under price controls to be implemented when the household market opens to competition next April.

Low-income customers on pre-payment meters will benefit from the same cost reductions, Stephen Littlechild, the regulator, said.

The bill cuts will average 9 per cent after two years with 6 per cent being cut next year

and 3 per cent the following year. But reductions will vary considerably from region to region.

London faces the highest bill cut at 14.8 per cent over two years, followed by Eastern at 11.9 per cent. Scottish Power bills will fall just £2 per cent.

Regional electricity companies now have one month to decide whether to accept controls, which have been watered down from a regime that would have cut £32 off an

average bill. Regional companies claim that not enough pressure is being exerted on the generators, whose prices account for more than half of an electricity bill.

Yesterday the electricity pool, the wholesale market for power, agreed to vote on a review of its trading procedures at next week's annual meeting. But consumer groups are demanding action from the Department for Trade and Industry.

## Pru sales hit by staff retraining

PRUDENTIAL CORPORATION said yesterday that third-quarter sales were adversely affected by the retraining of its 4,500-strong salesforce in August and September. UK single premiums fell £33 million to £903 million between the second and third quarter, while regular premiums dropped £41 million to £57 million. The three-day retraining of sales staff came after the Securities and Investments Board ruled that the company's in-house training and competence regime was not tough enough. About 240 sales staff, or 5 per cent, have failed the test and could face redundancy. A slightly lower number have also failed to gain the financial planning certificate they require to hold a licence. The company gave warning that retraining may affect final-quarter sales.

## Gas cheats face curbs

UNSCRUPULOUS gas traders who mislead customers will face unlimited fines and suppliers will be banned from working with agents who demand upfront money under new curbs planned by the gas industry regulator. Clare Spottiswoode, head of Ofgas, has backed calls from the Gas Consumers Council by proposing a marketing crackdown carrying the force of law. The restrictions would effectively outlaw the growing number of brokers who ask households for cash to secure cheap energy deals in the competitive market.

## Jarvis deal agreed

MINISTERS have imposed conditions to allow the £50 million acquisition of Fastline by Jarvis, the railway maintenance company, without referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Nigel Griffiths, the Competition Minister, called for undertakings that Fastline will make its specialist machinery available to competitors and that there will be no cross-subsidy within the group. Jarvis's main rivals claim the acquisition of Fastline will give its new owner huge advantages in winning contract work from Railtrack.

## M&S expands in Spain

MARKS & SPENCER, the department store group, is to open a new store at Zaragoza in North East Spain on November 25, the latest plank in an expansion plan across Europe and the Far East. The company said the Zaragoza branch will be its seventh store in Spain. M&S said that it plans to open stores in Torrejón de Ardoz, outside Madrid and in Bilbao during 1998. For 1999, projects include a store in Barcelona. M&S said its aim is to have opened 15 stores across Spain before the year 2000.

## Firm action on concrete

A NINE-YEAR legal battle against cartels in the ready-mixed concrete sector ended yesterday with action against a further 13 companies. The Office of Fair Trading said. The firms were accused of fixing prices and agreeing to share markets in contravention of competition laws. The 13 were involved in the same cartels as 17 other companies that were fined record amounts totalling £8.4 million two years ago. Two of the firms in yesterday's action were ordered to clear specified agreements with the OFT. The other 11 undertook to do the same.

## Coca-Cola sales rise

COCA-COLA earned \$1.01 billion (£616 million) in the third quarter, up 5 per cent from \$967 million a year earlier on sales that rose 11 per cent to \$4.9 billion. Growth was attributed to increases in its core brands, such as Coca-Cola and Sprite, and to new soft drinks, such as Surge and Citra. Worldwide unit case volume, which includes soft drinks sold in supermarkets and other retail outlets, increased 11 per cent. US case volume climbed 7 per cent. European unit sales increased 16 per cent.

## Cable firm changes tack

GENERAL CABLE, the fourth-largest quoted cable television company, has lost patience with the way it has to sell cable television and is to concentrate on telecommunications services, with the emphasis on offering packages of telephone and cable television services. New customers who want to buy packages of television channels on their own will have to pay higher prices. As a result of the changes, which include reorganising to reflect market sectors rather than geographic areas, there will be an exceptional charge of £35 million in 1997.

## BA in Finnair pact

BRITISH AIRWAYS has signed a co-operation agreement with Finnair, Finland's national carrier. The two companies will share their frequent-flyer programs and develop routes, customer service and marketing together. Finnair hopes to counter existing alliances between rival operators by forging a link with BA. No mutual ownership or changes in personnel are planned, said Antti Potila, Finnair chief executive. Finnair last year flew 6.2 million passengers. It has 45 overseas destinations and 21 within Finland.

## Prudential announce a rate change of great interest to savers

Prudential Banking plc is pleased to announce an increase in its 60 Day Notice Account interest rates as indicated below. Customers can make the first two withdrawals without notice, penalty free. The 60 Day Notice Account minimum opening balance for new customers will be £5,000.

Privilege Account rates will alter in line with the 60 Day Notice Account.

These changes take effect from Friday 17th October 1997. For further information phone 0800 000 222 or contact your Prudential representative.

Amount	Annual Rate (inc. legally bound)		Monthly Rate (inc. legally bound)	
	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.	Gross p.m.	Net p.m.
£5,000+	6.00%	5.20%	0.50%	0.43%
£10,000+	7.00%	6.00%	0.58%	0.51%

RAIES FOR SAVINGS BELOW £5,000 REMAIN UNCHANGED. THE RATES INCLUDE A LEGALLY BOUND 1.25% OFFER TO NEW CUSTOMERS WHO OPEN AN ACCOUNT WITH PRUDENTIAL BANKING PLC. THESE RATES WILL BE IN FORCE FROM 17th OCTOBER 1997. THE PRUDENTIAL BANKING PLC. IS A MEMBER OF THE PRUDENTIAL GROUP. THE PRUDENTIAL GROUP IS A MEMBER OF THE PRUDENTIAL GROUP. THE PRUDENTIAL GROUP IS A MEMBER OF THE PRUDENTIAL GROUP.

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AN EXCLUSIVE TIMES LIVE OFFER

THE TIMES

## Best shows, best seats

The floor of the Royal Albert Hall will be awash for the first time in its 126-year history when a new production of *Madam Butterfly* opens there in February.

A Japanese water garden complete with a series of walkways and bridges leading to *Madam Butterfly*'s house — sitting on stilts — is to be built for Puccini's opera.

This opera-in-the-round promises to be a spectacular experience and is just one of the exciting offers *The Times* has arranged for readers during the autumn and winter seasons.

The opera, which will be performed between February 19 and 27, is directed by David Freeman, founder of the Opera Factory, one of whose recent productions was *A Winter's Tale* at the

new Globe Theatre. This new production of *Madam Butterfly* is the fourth joint project by the Royal Albert Hall and Raymond Gubbay and follows the success of *La Bohème* last year and *Carmen* and *Swan Lake* earlier this year.

Times readers can enjoy priority booking for all performances. Ticket prices range from £18.50 to £39.50. A £2 booking fee per ticket applies. All shows begin at 7.30pm and finish at approximately 10.20pm. Offer closes October 24, 1997.

Call 0990 800 500 to book your tickets



## MADAM BUTTERFLY

AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL



CHANGING TIMES

## Utilities lead bad bill payers

UTILITIES are among the worst bill payers in the country, followed by financial services groups, brewers and the motor industry, new private research claims. By contrast, banks and grocers are relatively good at meeting their obligations. (Graham Searjeant writes).

Firms in the four laggard sectors take an average more than 60 days to meet invoices from suppliers, according to Experian, the information service company. Its analysis of payment records of 250,000 trading companies found that utilities take an average 61.78 days to pay against 50.68 days for firms in agriculture, fisheries and forestry, the best of 28 industrial sectors.

Among big firms, construction and equipment hire are rated the worst, taking an average 75 days. But utilities (73 days) and financial services (72 days) are not far behind. Big banks, best of the heavyweights, manage to pay bills in 64 days.

## Nationwide to deter speculators

By Caroline Merrell

NATIONWIDE, the UK's biggest building society, hopes to deter speculators by forcing new customers to sign an agreement promising to give a windfall after a demutualisation to charity. The society, which this year successfully defended itself against an attempt by carpetbaggers to get elected to the board to force a flotation, wants to try to stop people opening accounts in order to get a windfall.

The society is also reducing the amount needed to open an account to £1.

The Nationwide decided to introduce a £5,000 minimum on accounts after intense speculation about whether it would be forced to convert in to a bank like the Halifax, Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester.

In July alone, £1.3 billion was transferred to the society, much of this new money coming from carpetbaggers.

## Exchange acts to halt Snake in the Grass

THE Snake in the Grass has been defanged. The Stock Exchange yesterday outlawed the share dealing strategy designed to make a quick profit from someone else's typing errors, before it could threaten its new electronic market launched on Monday (Adam Jones writes).

The rule involved traders inputting absurd orders, for example to buy at 1p. These may be automatically filled if

another trader enters the wrong price or naively agrees to trade "at best price" when liquidity is poor.

The Stock Exchange said yesterday that anyone who inputs an order more than 20 per cent adrift from the prevailing price may be fined for market abuse. As a transitional measure, the Exchange also said orders more than 10 times normal market size will be rejected.

TOURIST RATES			
	Bank Buys	Bank Sells	Bank Buys
Australia \$	2.30	2.13	Bank Sells
Austria Sch	20.91	19.25	0.682
Belgium Fr	61.55	58.87	3.379
Canada \$	2.975	2.187	0.627
Cyprus Cyp£	0.880	0.808	2.45
Denmark Kr	11.36	10.67	2.45
Finland Mk	9.05	8.30	11.95
France Fr	9.85	9.17	11.95
Germany Dr	3.82	3.75	278.50
Greece Dr	471	432	8.21
Hong Kong \$	13.37	12.17	7.95
Ireland P£	1.18	1.07	240.79
Israel Sh	0.01	0.59	221.00
Italy Lit	2704	2704	13.07
Japan Yen	200.49	191.50	9.51
			2.26
			280.22
			278.54
			1.583

Rates for small denomination bank notes supplied by Barclays Bank. Other rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



# Question of BAT — and all that jazz



COMMENTARY  
by our City Editor

**K**enneth Clarke's sense of humour is clearly being given free rein as he builds a choice portfolio of lucrative jobs to run alongside his position as a backbench MP. Who but the former Chancellor would think of pairing the chairmanship of a chemist's business with the deputy chairmanship of a tobacco company?

Former Chancellors, however, are becoming unpredictable. Lord Lawson, of Blaby, has plunged, with some success, into the hugely competitive field of writing diet books. In his spare time, he found time to make commercials for one unit trust company while sitting on the board of a rival financial organisation. Ken Clarke is fitting in a temporary stint presenting a jazz programme on the radio before getting into the serious business of selling cigarettes. Whether that, too, is to be only a temporary detour from the strength of his teasing about whether or not he still harbours ambitions to lead the Tory Party.

Yesterday BAT was being coy about it will be paying Mr Clarke for his contribution, but it will certainly be a useful top up to his backbencher's pay. Apart from being a jolly chap to have around at board meetings, and a dedicated user of the product, it is not quite clear what else he will have to contribute to the company. The main emphasis for BAT is in expanding into new and far flung markets and, despite his long

stint in government, Mr Clarke is not particularly well placed to open doors overseas for the company.

But quite why Martin Broughton should have opted for the fun-loving jazz fan as his deputy is only one of the unanswered questions hovering over BAT's £23 million deal with Zurich Insurance.

The City had hoped for elucidation yesterday but was left still puzzling as to why BAT has opted for this route to demerger rather than the oft-mooted link with Commercial Union.

Although the fast gathering trend is towards the globalisation of insurance companies, the decision to keep all the existing brands including the perennially problematic Eagle Star, is puzzling. Quite how this is going to enable cost savings of £150 million to be made remains unclear, and Rolf Huppi, Zurich's chairman, is keeping mum on the subject.

With the imagination for which his countrymen are renowned, the UK end of the business is now to be quoted in London as Allied Zurich.

If the strategy for this business is still behind something of a smoke haze, the prospects for

BAT look somewhat clearer. As a pure tobacco company, a term that Ken Clarke would surely appreciate, BAT may command a higher rating than it has when mixed in with financial services. With its debt burden restructured, the company will be in a stronger position to expand into areas where the full delights of tobacco are only just beginning to be appreciated. Perhaps the ex-Chancellor could help in the marketing?

## Kissing Hardie goodbye

**P**reventing WH Smith from turning into the next Sears demands the attentions of a serious, professional chairman and an inspired chief executive. Unfortunately, the company has neither.

Richard Handover has had an inauspicious start as chief executive and Jeremy Hardie's

performance as chairman has been, frankly, amateurish. It was Mr Hardie, lest we forget, who appointed Bill Cockburn as chief executive, only to watch him quit as soon as he got a better offer. The search over the summer for a new chief executive was an embarrassing affair, with names popping up and being swept aside with alarming regularity, making any sensible search impossible and the selection of Mr Handover, a company veteran, a dull inevitability.

Mr Hardie's reaction to the approach from Tim Waterstone verged on the hysterical. The public rubbishing, without any warning to Mr Waterstone, made it easy for the bookseller to insist that he had a right to be taken seriously — however dubious his proposals.

Similarly, however much the company protested that it had already been moving towards the new half-baked strategy it revealed yesterday, the timing

made it impossible to take its claim seriously.

No one appears to know quite how or why Mr Hardie ever became chairman of WH Smith. He was on the board from 1988, became deputy chairman in 1992 and took the chair in 1994. Before that, he taught economics at Oxford and was once deputy chairman of the MMC. His interests are the arts and Liberal politics — he was once an SDP candidate. This makes him sound alarmingly similar to another retail chairman, J Sainsbury's Lord Sainsbury of Turville, whose reputation also carries the whiff of amateurism.

Mr Hardie insisted yesterday that he has come under no pressure to leave. The institutional investors have presumably been too polite to tell him to his face. Some of them ought to remind themselves how much money they lost being polite by giving Sears' management the benefit of the doubt.

However busy WH Smith's high-powered non-executives may be, they would be doing their duty if they were to ascertain the true feelings of the shareholders, and then tell Mr Hardie to look elsewhere for a sinecure. WH Smith has no room left for mistakes, and not replacing him would be its worst mistake yet.

## Locking stable door before EMU bolts

**G**ordon Brown cannot apparently have it all his own way. He wants a lower pound to help Britain's hard-pressed exporters, and hints from the Treasury that the Government is warning towards the euro have been quite effective in depressing sterling in recent weeks. The British Chambers of Commerce yesterday asked for an even clearer statement of positive intent to bring the pound down further.

But these valiant efforts on behalf of British industry have now attracted some unwelcome attention from Europe's single currency ideologues. Yesterday, the Chancellor was irritatingly reminded that sterling is sup-

posed to be stable for at least two years before qualifying for membership of the euro. The President of the European Monetary Institute talked disparagingly about the pound's sizeable fluctuations.

In the year to July, sterling appreciated a whopping 30 per cent against the mark. A clever bit of EMU spin has knocked the pound down some 7 per cent from its peak and there is little doubt that the Chancellor would like to see this slide extended.

Here's the rub. Sterling has actually been quite stable at a high level for some six months. If the pound were to hold on to much of its appreciation, Britain could be fit for monetary union in 18 months. But pushing the pound into another downward leg would be seen as another bout of volatility and leave Britain back at square one on its exchange rate credentials.

## A lot of hot air

**I**T HAD to happen. Albert Fisher is now worried that the El Niño weather front may affect some of its food businesses. This comes on top of historic calamities, like the cold sea stopping the growth of Dutch cockles and a poor pea harvest, and the current bugbear, the frozen prawn glacier. If Stephen Walls was as good at running the company as he is at thinking of excuses for it, Albert Fisher would not be in such a mess.

## DFS fails to lure windfall cash to its till

BY FRASER NELSON

**T**HE rapid advance of DFS showed the first signs of strain yesterday as the furniture chain coupled disappointing year-end results with a warning that recent trading had suffered a short downturn.

Sir Graham Kirkham, the Tory fundraiser who built the company, said that like-for-like growth in its stores plunged from 10 per cent to 2 per cent last year after no benefit was felt from building society windfalls.

Although he argued that the figure is irrelevant beside the pre-tax profits of £38.7 million (£31.1 million), the shares dropped 30½p to 570p.

Sir Graham said that the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, had led to an autumn slowdown in which weekly sales had plunged to £1 million at one point, against £7 million normally.

He said: "There has been a blip, an aberration, but these sales have just been deferred. Nobody else has been getting them. Anything we lost then we will recover later on."

Sir Graham played down the company's failure to

capitalise on spending by windfall recipients, which has lifted sales of most big-ticket items. "These people are savers by nature," he said. "It's not just DFS, the same has been felt across the whole furniture industry."

He dismissed suggestions that DFS could be losing out because it specialises in selling high-price goods at interest-free credit — an offer giving little advantage to those with windfalls to spend.

City analysts adjusted pre-tax profit forecasts from £47.5 million to £45 million for next year, when the number of DFS stores should rise from 40 to 45.

The company spent around £17 million on advertising and marketing over the year, to accompany its entry to the London area. This depressed margins by 1.3 points, to 14.6 per cent, although operating profit jumped to £37.2 million (£29.3 million) and earnings per share to 24.8p (19.7p).

The dividend rises to 12.7p (10p), delivering £3.86 million to Sir Graham and his family, who own 28.7 per cent of DFS.

## Freephone. A 32 ton earth mover currently used to dig the garden.



## Celltech to work on blood drug

BY PAUL DURMAN

**C**ELLTECH, the drug development company, is planning to work on a drug to tackle the blocking of arteries in patients who have undergone angioplasty operations to free their blood vessels.

The company hopes to prevent the build-up of cells that can be caused by stents, the tiny metal supports used during angioplasties. The drug will be developed by combining Celltech's CDP 860 antibody with technology it expects to license from ZymoGenetics, an American research firm linked to Novo Nordisk, the world's largest producer of industrial enzymes. The shares climbed 10p to 337½p.

Celltech announced yesterday that it has an option to worldwide patents held by ZymoGenetics and the University of Washington.

## Walls ready to change Fisher role

BY PAUL DURMAN

**S**TEPHEN WALLS, chairman of Albert Fisher, is to give up his executive role once the food company has found a buyer for its seafood business. He will stay on as non-executive chairman (See Commentary, this page).

Fisher hopes to sell the seafood business before the end of the year. It plans to return the money it raises — perhaps £100 million — to shareholders who have seen the value of their investment halve in the past four years.

Pre-tax profits (excluding one-offs) were £100,000 better at £40.2 million for the year to August 31, helped by a £3.1 million reduction in the interest bill. The seafood business, increased operating profits from £7.7 million to £11.4 million.

A final dividend of 1.9p maintains the total at 3.75p.

## Crystal team buys out travel groups

BY DOMINIC WALSH

**P**ETER DYER, the veteran head of Crystal Holidays, the tour operator, yesterday unveiled a £150 million management buyout of Crystal and Jetsave from Viad Corp, the US services company.

Mr Dyer, who founded Crystal in 1981 before selling it to Viad ten years later, is understood to have won the face of strong interest from some of the biggest tour operators, including Air Tours, Thomson, and Carlson. The combined group will be re-named Crystal International

Travel Group. The purchase price is thought to have been about £50 million, with bonding, insolvency and foreign exchange requirements accounting for most of the balance of £100 million.

Crystal and Jetsave, which between them carry about 400,000 passengers a year, have a combined turnover of £200 million and profit margins of 3-5 per cent. The brand names involved include Tropical Places and Crystal Ski, the UK's biggest skiing holiday operator.

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# After a wobble, shares face a longish but not steep decline

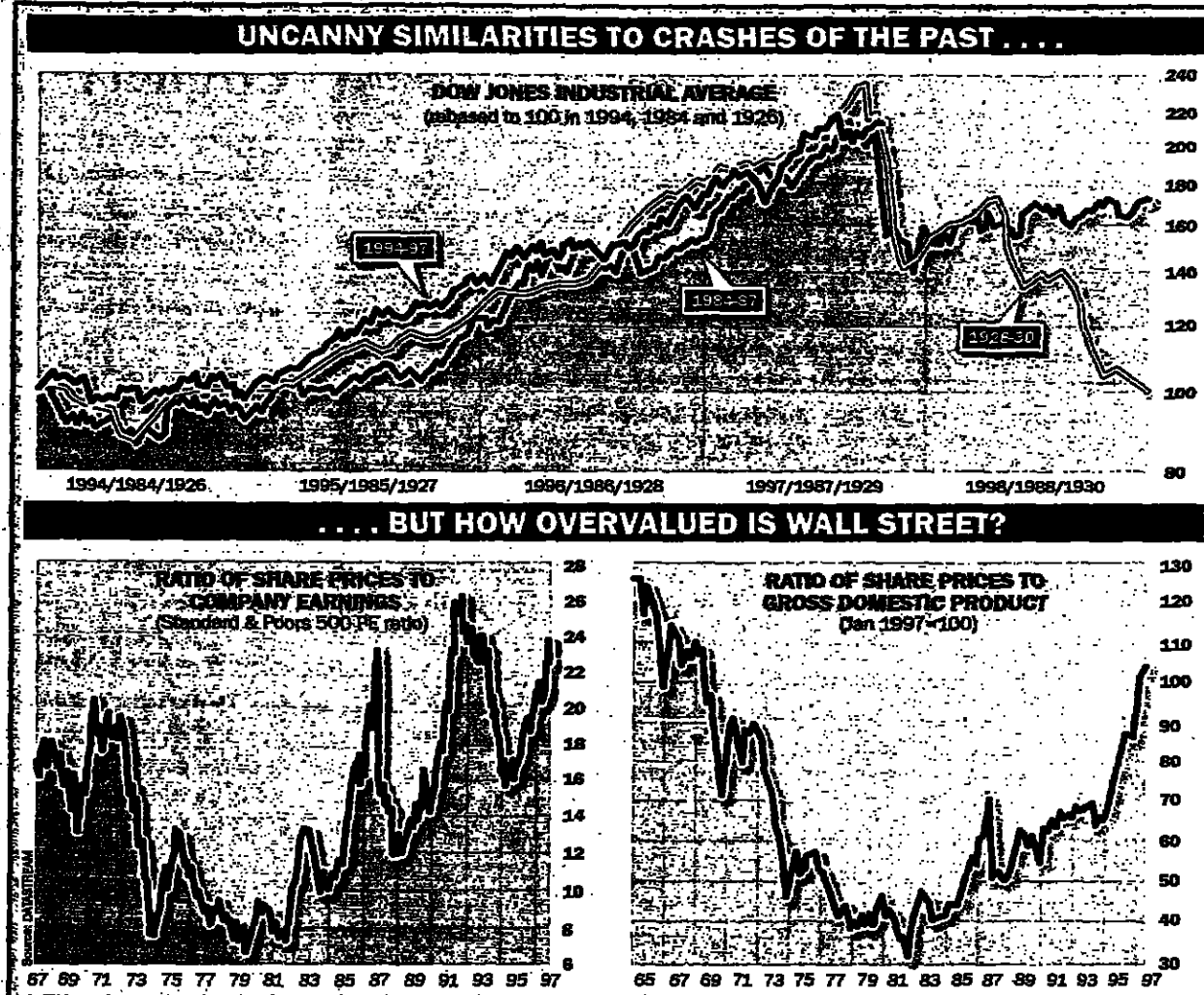
Widespread fears of another October crash are misplaced

Al bull markets are alike, but every bear market is bearish in a different way — if Tolstoy had been a Wall Street broker those lines might have begun his great work, *A Knack for Earning*. Since Sunday marks the tenth anniversary of Black Monday and the media are (as usual) full of Jeremiah predicting another Wall Street crash, it seems appropriate to reflect on the wise words that he never wrote.

There are plenty of good reasons for believing that shares are now too expensive and that stock markets are riding for a fall. Some of these reasons were discussed in this column on July 13, when I abandoned the longstanding bullish view I had held about Wall Street since 1995. The reasons for turning bearish have multiplied. Perennially bearish institutional investors in Britain and Europe are capitulating and pouring money into Wall Street. Bull-market euphoria is evident in the record-breaking bid for MCI financed by nothing but corporate paper. Investors are accepting ludicrous valuations for supposedly high-tech companies such as WorldCom, Yahoo and Dell Computer, which have few real assets and no proprietary technology or market power.

The reasons for turning bearish do not, however, include the alleged similarities between today's conditions and those of 1929, still less of 1929 or 1989 in Tokyo. The resemblance between the Wall Street bull markets of 1926-27, 1984-87 and 1994-97 is uncanny, as illustrated in the top chart, but because both of the other bull markets culminated in a 30 per cent crash, compressed into a few days in October, does not mean that something similar is likely in the coming weeks. If anything, the widespread fear of an October crash implies that prices could rise once the crash fails to materialise.

The question that matters, though, is not whether there will be a one-day crash like Black Monday or Black Tuesday in 1929, but whether the direction of the markets in the year ahead is likely to be down or up. And if a decline finally happens, will it be a 50 per cent-plus catastrophe (like 1929 and 1974 on Wall Street or Tokyo in 1990)? Will it be a less cataclysmic, but still traumatic, 30 per cent (like 1987)? Or will it be just a moderate correction of 20 per cent or so (like 1990)? My guess, for what it is worth, is that shares will wobble for a few months more, as they have since



conditions turned broadly bearish in mid-summer. They may even hit new peaks in a pre-Christmas rally. By next year, however, the markets are likely to beat a rapid retreat, ending up some 20 to 25 per cent below their present levels.

The reasons why shares today are vulnerable are familiar enough. Prices are unusually high in relation to company profits, gross domestic product and most other fundamental measures of intrinsic worth. Although many professional analysts, especially in London, believed this to be true three years ago and thereby missed the entire bull market, the arguments that were wrong in 1995 are probably valid now. High valuations could be sustained, and indeed increased, while long-term interest rates kept falling and profits kept growing rapidly. But bond yields are now at rock-bottom levels and profits cannot grow forever at compound rates of 15 per cent, or even 10 per cent.

At some point, the share of profits in national income must stop rising and at that point share valuations that extrapolate 10 to 15 per cent profit growth to infinity are bound to fall. The longstanding bears were also wrong in 1995 to judge the market's valuations against benchmarks of the crisis-ridden 1970s and 1980s. Today, however, valuations are quite expensive even in relation to their levels in the 1960s.

Against this background, it now seems prudent to accept the bearish conventional wisdom that I had opposed in previous years. But where the

conventional wisdom still seems too gloomy is on the severity of any decline. Another crash like 1987, never mind 1929, still seems improbable. The main reason for dismissing the horrors that spiced up many market commentaries is that fundamental conditions in the American and global economies should remain benign for years to come. Global trade should continue to be liberalised, inflation should remain under control. Technology and productivity should continue to advance, though not, of course, at the breathtaking pace of the 1950s and 1960s. Politicians and central bankers should continue to rediscover their responsibility for maintaining full employment by managing demand. Under these circumstances, serious recessions are as unlikely as they were in the 1950s and 1960s.

While these favourable fundamentals will not preclude significant cyclical fluctuations in interest rates, profits and equity prices, they should continue to favour economic growth, investment and the accumulation of profits in the long term. It seems reasonable to expect, therefore, that share prices in the years ahead will fluctuate around the relatively high valuations they enjoyed in the 1960s. Judged by these benchmarks, rather than the unsustainable bargain-basement prices of the 1970s and 1980s, Wall Street is only moderately overvalued today. A 20 to 25 per cent fall from current

levels would probably be enough for the market to form a new base, ready for the next cyclical advance.

This issue of valuations makes the abruptness — and the brevity — of the 1987 crash easier to understand. By the mid-1980s many investors thought they could discern the end of the post-1974 depression. They began to anticipate a return to the 1960s golden age of low inflation, full employment and rapid growth. But when the market got ahead of itself, as it invariably does, the first reaction was to question the "new paradigm" and to fear that crisis conditions and cheap valuations of 1974-82 were about to return. It did not take long for investors to realise, however, that there had been a fundamental improvement in the US and world economies. Fears about a return to the 1970s were misplaced. This was the reason markets began a sustained recovery within three months of Black Monday.

What the experience of 1987 proved in retrospect was that a market crash can only do permanent damage if it correctly anticipates a deep-seated structural dislocation. After 1929 came the great depression. After 1974 came 15 years of inflation and mass unemployment. After 1990 in Tokyo came the end of Japan's economic miracle, based on perfecting American technology and managerial methods. After the present market crises in southeast Asia, a disintegration of the "Confucian model" of authoritarian capitalism may be on the cards.

The next bear market in

America and Europe, by contrast, is likely to be triggered by cyclical rather than by structural problems — most probably a decline in profit growth, accompanied by a modest upturn in interest rates and inflation. But once such a cyclical decline does start, won't it inevitably turn to panic, as it did in 1987?

I think not. As share prices retreat in the face of unfavourable cyclical influences, long-term investors will be encouraged to snap up shares by the favourable fundamentals of expanding world trade, advancing technology, stable prices, co-operative labour relations and managed demand. In 1987, before the end of the Cold War and only a few years after the crises of 1973-83, a stable world economy seemed a pipedream.

Now America has actually experienced this "new paradigm" (more precisely, it has rediscovered and revised the old 1960s paradigm as I argued on September 12). Accordingly, investors should be more confident about buying shares before they collapse to the undervalued levels of late 1987.

There could, of course, be a 1987-style crash if prices surged by another 15 or 20 per cent in coming months. But in the absence of such a final outbreak of bullish hysteria, there is unlikely to be a "crash of 1997" — or of 1998. More probable is a longish, but not very steep, decline. Instead of falling into a pit of panic, share prices would slide down a slope of hope.

## City lets home-grown success story fall to the Americans

Carl Mortished reports on how the head of Federal-Mogul managed to put T&N, the automotive engineer, in the BHAG

On yet another day of multibillion-dollar bids, the City was given an inside glimpse into American corporate culture in the form of Dick Snell's "BHAG", or Big Hairy Audacious Goal.

The general chairman and CEO of Federal-Mogul turned up in London yesterday with a £1.5 billion bridging loan from Chase Manhattan bank enough to snap up T&N, one of Britain's leading automotive engineers. Mr Snell's ambition is disarmingly simple: the big hairy goal is to create a \$10 billion company in five years; T&N is just a step along the road.

Posters at Federal-Mogul's Michigan HQ ensure that the BHAG is welded into the mind of every employee. Whether T&N's British employees respond to the American football team spirit remains to be seen, but one thing is clear: the City has let down a home-grown success story, handing it over to US investors who are less chary of a bit of business risk.

Sir Colin Hope, T&N's chairman, could tell his American partners a few things about big hairy audacious gambles. In the early Eighties, T&N was all but bust, a ragbag of businesses from building materials to auto parts, ready to implode because of mushrooming asbestos injury claims.

Sir Colin took on a company worth £70 million with about £400 million in sales and set about turning it into a leading automotive parts supplier. He sold businesses in Africa and India, built up Ferodo, the brakes business, and launched a bid for AE, the engineering group. T&N won the fight on the second attempt after successfully challenging secret intermediaries given to support the AE share price and beating off Hollis, a company backed by Robert Maxwell.

T&N's motor business grew and today has leading positions in pistons, friction products, sealants and bearings. It has become a key player in a world where carmakers are seeking consolidation of suppliers. According to Mr Snell: "You must have engineering, design, development and testing in the same time zones and the same languages of your customers and then you must be able to manufacture around the world."

For several years, Sir Colin's strategy has been getting

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“The City got it wrong and Dick Snell got it right” — SIR COLIN HOPE

that breadth of coverage through acquisitions, recently in the tireless pursuit of Kolbenschmidt, the German piston maker in which T&N has options over a large amount of its shares. Yet, the City worried about T&N's gearing and the drain on its cashflow from asbestos litigation. Sir Colin sums up it:

"The City got it wrong and Dick Snell got it right."

The deterrent for investors has been asbestos, a liability the company never sought to evade. Doggedly, T&N's management soldiered on, running a tight ship that generated the cash to pay more than £500 million to asbestos sufferers, finally putting in place an insurance policy that caps the company's exposure.

Such conscientious determination won T&N few fans in the City, where investors treated the shares like poison, preferring the shorter-term thrills and spills in banking and pharmaceuticals. As a result, Sir Colin was left with little ammunition when T&N and Federal-Mogul flirted with a merger last year.

Robert Speed, analyst at Henderson Crosswhite puts it bluntly: "It is a horrendous indictment of UK investor mentality. If they had merged the two companies, T&N would have taken 60 per cent of the group, but T&N stock was undervalued and Federal-Mogul was overvalued."

Sir Colin is clearly saddened by the outcome although he is firm in backing Mr Snell. "I don't deny that a lot of it was management's fault, but something is very wrong when institutions say to me: 'Isn't it a shame you could not have carried on for two years?'"

Pointing to Federal-Mogul's £1.5 billion bridging loan, he said: "It's ridiculous that they could produce the finance in America and we couldn't do it in London."

Yesterday, Mr Snell was full of praise for T&N's management, making jokes about Sir Colin's negotiating skills — "When I'm next to him I have to watch my wallet." Mr Snell knows he is getting a quality product at a bargain price, but whether the City recognises it is doubtful. It would be nice if hundreds of thousands of British pensioners wrote to those who invest our money to ask why they failed to back T&N. But they remain invisible and the depressing money-go-round continues.

### BUSINESS LETTERS

#### Invoices can help timely payment

From Mr Lance Allen  
Sir, The debate continues over late payment of invoices ("Large firms worst for delaying payments", October 3). Whilst habitual protagonists should be encouraged to mend their ways, a degree of self-help by the suppliers can give themselves an improved chance of prompt payment by always describing the goods, and naming the ordering contact. Common sense surely.

Yours faithfully,  
LANCE ALLEN,  
33 Hazelhurst Crescent,  
Findon Valley,  
Worthing, West Sussex.

#### Wrong penalties

From Mr Robert Breckman  
Sir, The recent fines by the Personal Investment Authority, eg. the £450,000 on Friends Provident, are without substance. The payment of these amounts only comes out of policy and shareholders' funds. It is the individuals who should be penalised and banned from being involved with the pensions industry and the companies involved should be likewise banned from selling pension policies for a period of say, one year. Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT BRECKMAN,  
49 South Molton Street, W1.

## Smugs views

TIM WATERSTONE'S stalking of WH Smith has brought out an epidemic of self-doubt among the senior management — and not only about the so-called strategy of the retailer. Richard Handover, the "new" chief executive (after 32 years at Smugs), was concerned about how people view him. "I know what people say about me," Handover, who looks at least two decades older than his 51 years, told a City audience yesterday. "I know they say I'm a decrepit old fart from inside the com-



Richard Handover of WH Smith is aware of what people say about him

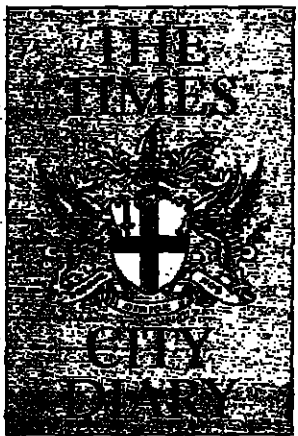
pany." Before anyone had a chance to nod, he added: "But I'm not."

However, he does not appear to have convinced Beverly Hodson, the managing director of WH Smith, and a relative new girl at Smugs. She referred to her new boss as "wrinkly" and went on to say of herself: "I know I don't have Mr Waterstone's charismatic whatever-it-is." Eloquence, perhaps? Style? Ideas? Or ability to sell books?

AND they said, he would never finish the race. Gerry Acher, the head of auditing at KPMG, arrived in northern Italy yesterday on the last stage of the Peking to Paris rally, which he is tackling in a 1932 baby Aston Martin. He is due in Paris tomorrow, but is reporting strange noises coming from the engine. "We intend to make it to Paris even if we have to push the car," he e-mailed the office. That would be a sight.

### Up in smoke

THE appearance of coddly Ken Clarke as deputy chairman of British American Tobacco squares an interesting



circle. When he was Home Secretary, Ken needed somebody to review police pay. So he turned to Sir Patrick Sheehy, who was then chairman of BAT Industries. Unfortunately, by the time the chain-smoking cigarette maker could deliver his report, Ken had moved on to become Chancellor and the new Home Secretary, Michael Howard, largely ignored Sir Patrick's recommendations.

AFTER the troubles at Ferguson International, it is time to institute a Denis Cassidy index. The hyperactive former British Home Stores director — who went on to run Boddingtons, the cream of Manchester — has had a wonderful track record recently. Lib-

erty, the department store group that is his main company, has lost a third of its value in the past 16 months. He also runs Oliver Group, the shoe sellers — which has lost two thirds of its value in three years — and presided over the magnificent flotation of Kingsbury Group, the furniture flogger, seeing the shares fall from 32p to 18p this year before Lord Harris of Bexham's H&C put it out of its misery. Bad news for the Toon Army as well — he is a director of Newcastle United.

### Hatchet man

I AM sad I missed Tuesday's Hill Samuel reunion, which the former merchant bank's former boss Christopher Castleman hosted at his offices at Standard Chartered bank. A star-studded cast from the City included corporate financiers from BZW (clutching ominous brown envelopes), NatWest Markets (ditto) and Close Brothers, as well as Richard Ramsay, now finance director of Aberdeen football club. The biggest surprise was the appearance of Christopher Koshier and Trevor Swete, the top financiers fired by Castleman over a row about taking staff to BZW. But I am not sure all hatchets have been buried. There was no sign of David Davies, who presided over Hill Samuel's sale to TSB ten years ago.

### Beach call

TALKING of the TSB, Lloyds TSB is still flogging off its spare branches at a pace. Healey & Baker, the surveyors, auctioned 92 of them this week, raking in more than £24 million for the clearing bank's coffers. Healey is getting quite sophisticated in the way it handles the bidding these days, so you can bid by phone, rather like being at Sotheby's. One bidder picked up a couple of branches in the Midlands, while relaxing on a sun lounger on a beach in Tenerife.

JASON NISSE  
PRESTON



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## Micropal directors accept American approach

By Gavin Lumsden

The McGraw-Hill Companies, the American information services provider that owns Standard & Poor's, the equity and bond ratings agency, said yesterday that it was acquiring Micropal, the leading UK data provider on unit trusts.

It also announced that it would be launching a comprehensive Internet service for US and UK investors in the near future.

McGraw-Hill would not disclose how much it was paying for Micropal, which had a turnover of £13.5 million last year.

However, Micropal directors, including Chris Poll, the founder-chairman who owns nearly half of the company's shares, have agreed to the transaction.

McGraw-Hill said that the acquisition would build on its leading position in financial services and global publishing.

Micropal, which measures the performance of 38,000 investment funds in the UK, Europe and Asia, will become part of S&P, which is expanding its fund-rating business beyond the US.

Last February it bought Fund Research, another UK unit trust research company.

Jack Zwingli, group vice-president at S&P, said that the company had used Micropal data for five years and now planned to develop more products for American consumers, brokers and institutional investors.

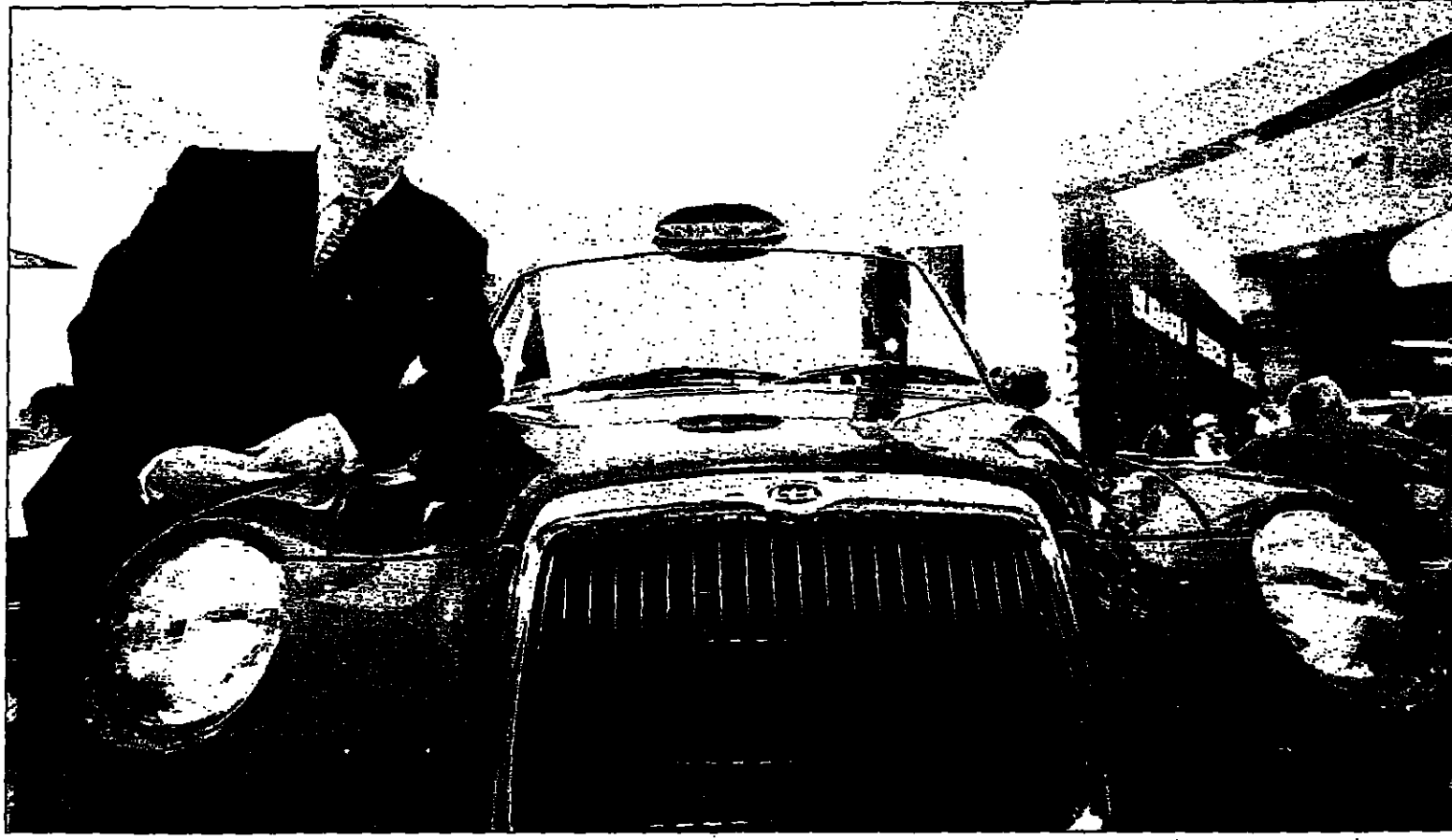
Next month it will launch Personal Wealth, an Internet-based service offering investors information and advice on finance and portfolio management. In the US, subscribers will be charged a monthly fee. S&P hopes to launch the service in the UK next year.

Mr Poll, who is leaving Micropal, said that the time was right to create a global service provider for the fund management industry.

He added: "The privatisation of pensions provision means you've got to get a global strategy. Over the coming years the fund management business will stop being the poor relation of the financial services industry and will become the essential conduit by which capital is moved."

Mr Poll is setting up a consultancy specialising in the Greater China region and will continue to advise the company, which will be renamed Standard & Poor's Micropal.

Mark Adorian will continue handling the day-to-day management and will report to Mr Zwingli.



Jamie Borwick, chief executive of Manganese Bronze Holdings, makers of London's black cabs, which are now destined for Paris and Frankfurt. The company dominates the UK market and is to supply a left-hand-drive taxi. Mr Borwick said: "We could have exported them before but it was the devil's own job to convert the old models to left-hand drive. With the new version this will be much easier."

We should be exporting about a third of the production line in a few years." Pre-tax profits rose to £8.31 million (£6.2 million) in the year to July 31. The dividend rises to 9.5p (7p) with a final 6p.

## BTR strengthens engineering core with Exide Electronics

By Martin Barrow

BTR, which embarked on a £3 billion disposal programme last month, yesterday moved to strengthen its core engineering business with the £361 million purchase of America's Exide Electronics.

Exide, a provider of power supply systems, will merge with BTR Control Systems to form a global business at the heart of the reshaped BTR, with annual sales of about £1.5 billion and almost 18,000 employees.

BTR is offering \$29 for each Exide share, which trades on

America's Nasdaq exchange. This compares with a hostile £20 offer launched by Danaher Corp, another American company, in July and which forced the Exide board to explore alternative strategic options for their business.

BTR has secured a recommendation from the Exide board and from investors who speak for 19.9 per cent of the shares. The Danaher offer was due to expire at midnight yesterday.

Ian Strachan, chief executive of BTR, said the acquisition represented "a major step

forward in our strategy to focus on our higher growth engineering businesses where we enjoy leadership positions. "It gives our control systems group a global position in the power electronics industry and provides us with the ability to supply our customers with integrated systems solutions, for which there is increasing demand."

Exide, which is unrelated to Exide Corporation, a manufacturer of batteries, earned pre-tax profits of \$50.9 million (£31.3 million) on sales of

\$562.0 million in the 12 months to the end of June, achieving margins of 7.8 per cent.

The company is based in Raleigh, North Carolina, with manufacturing facilities in America, Finland and Mexico. In addition to uninterruptible power supplies the company makes related software, and equipment and services for computer, communications and industrial applications.

BTR's tender offer for the equity is worth \$352 million. In addition, BTR is assuming

\$233 million of debt. BTR shares were little changed at 235p yesterday, down 15p.

The shares, which had severely underperformed the stock market over the past three years, have recovered some lost ground since August, coinciding with the appointment of Bob Bauman as chairman and the subsequent announcement by Mr Strachan of a strategic refocusing of the group. BTR is seeking buyers for its huge packaging, polymers and building products business.

## Drug firms count the cost of EMU

By Paul Durman

EUROPEAN Monetary Union will cost pharmaceutical companies hundreds of millions of pounds in lost profits because it will hasten the cross-border harmonisation of drug prices, it is claimed.

David Brewer, a senior consultant at the life sciences arm of Cap Gemini, the computer services consultancy, said that the introduction of a single currency would make price differences more visible to government agencies and consumer groups. At the same time, he said, a single currency would further encourage wholesalers to exploit price differentials through parallel importing.

Mr Brewer said that the absence of currency risk will allow wholesalers to take advantage of smaller price discrepancies. Cap Gemini believes that together these

two forces will create powerful pressure to bring drug prices into line. Mr Brewer said harmonisation at lower price levels will cost individual companies hundreds of millions every year.

Drug pricing varies widely across Europe, with some products costing only a third as much in Spain as they do elsewhere. Mr Brewer suggested that harmonisation would only take place over several years because national agencies are likely to fight to retain control of drug pricing, and to protect jobs in their pharmaceutical industries.

A survey of 111 pharmaceutical companies conducted by Datamonitor on behalf of Cap Gemini suggests that the industry expects to spend about £550 million preparing for EMU in the next five years.

## Microsoft chasing \$1bn cable television stake

From Oliver August in New York

MICROSOFT, the US software group, is considering a \$1 billion (£600 million) investment in one of America's largest cable television companies. Bill Gates, the Microsoft executive chairman, is seeking control of the cable sector after deciding that cable, and not telephony, holds the key to the delivery of electronic communications.

Microsoft executives are negotiating a deal with Telecommunications Inc (TCI) under which Microsoft would provide cash for the installation of the boxes that would give cable subscribers easy access to the Internet and digital cable channels.

Viewers will for the first time be able to use cable television interactively as a result of the new technology.



Gates: communications key

Eventually, consumers are expected to route all their communications, including telephone conversations, through the cable network.

Mr Gates's efforts are aimed at making Microsoft software the standard on the cable network in the same way

that the group already dominates the personal computer market. In an extreme case, rival cable software could become a threat to Microsoft's Windows operating system, the group believes.

Microsoft executives have said that "penetrating the living room" will be vital for the long-term future. The unconfirmed investment plans at TCI are worth between \$500 million and \$1 billion, funded from cash resources.

TCI is among several cable companies that formed a consortium to standardise cable boxes so that they can be used by cable providers nationwide. But TCI's existing technology is believed to be inferior to that of its direct competitors. Microsoft is also trying to persuade Time Warner, America's second-biggest cable operator, to endorse its software.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Gleeson build-up boosts share price

SHARES in MJ Gleeson, the building and construction group, rose from £10.22 to £10.52 after it reported an increase in pre-tax profits from £8.85 million to £10.5 million for the year to July 30. Sales rose to £205.8 million, from £198.4 million. Earnings improved from 57.45p to 66.48p, out of which the total dividend rises from 16.00p to 18.20p after a rise in the final dividend of 15 per cent to 14.17p.

The company said that demand in the contracting sector was continuing to rise in most parts of Britain and the construction divisions had a more substantial order book than for some time.

### Cirqual buys BWMP

CIRQUAL, the engineering group, is to acquire BWMP, a printed circuit board maker, for £36.4 million. Cirqual also announced a 184 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £6.73 million in the year to August 31, on sales up 72 per cent to £31.95 million. Earnings per share rose 58 per cent to 19.05p, out of which the total dividend goes up 59 per cent to 9.52p. Tony Garbhand, chairman, said: "The group's existing businesses are continuing to experience high activity levels, leading the directors to view the year ahead with enthusiasm and optimism."

### 'Largest' cruise ship

ROYAL CARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL, the shipping line, is to build what it believes is the world's largest cruise ship, which will have twice the tonnage of the QE2. It will set sail with a floating ice rink, a rock climbing wall, a roller-blading track and a television studio. It will enter service in autumn 1999, will hold 3,840 passengers and will be built in Turku, Finland. The new ship has yet to be named. Royal Caribbean operates two brands, Royal Caribbean International and Celebrity Cruises.

### Jobs consultancy placing

NORTHERN RECRUITMENT, the North East of England and Yorkshire recruitment consultancy, plans to raise £1.35 million through a placing of shares. In the year to June it increased pre-tax profit from £1.013 million to £1.72 million on turnover up 42 per cent at £10.4 million from £7.33 million. Like-for-like sales in the first quarter were up by 31 per cent. Lorna Moran, chief executive, said the proceeds of the placing will help with two new offices in Edinburgh and Glasgow, which are expected to open in spring 1998.

### Winterthur go-ahead

THE European Commission has cleared the merger between Credit Suisse Group and Winterthur Insurance Group. It said the merger would create the leading group in Switzerland in retail financial services and non-life insurance, and the second in life insurance. However the Commission said: "The merger will nonetheless not produce notable market share additions in banking and insurance product markets inside the European Union." The merged group will be among the five largest financial groups in Europe.

### Ultraframe £136m float

ULTRAFRAME, the designer and manufacturer of conservatory roofs, said it is planning a stock market flotation via a placing of shares at 147p a share, valuing the group at £136.4 million, a multiple of 15.8 times estimated earnings before exceptional costs per share for the year to September 26. Estimated earnings per share for the year are 9.5p, with the national dividend at 5.5p a share. Estimated pre-tax profit for the period will be "not less than £10.3 million. Dealing in Ultraframe shares is expected to begin on October 23.

### LAWS payout rises 10%

LAWS GROUP, the Irish food and agricultural products group, achieved an increase in pre-tax profits to Ir£25.3 million (£23 million) from Ir£18.5 million in the year to July 31. Earnings rose to Ir£13.7p a share from Ir£11.8p. There is a final dividend of Ir£1.66p a share, lifting the total by 10 per cent to Ir£13.2p. The company said capital expenditure and acquisitions totalled Ir£34 million during the year. Free cash flow remained strong at Ir£21 million and year-end borrowings were Ir£22 million, with gearing of 30 per cent.

## LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

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Merrill Lynch  
on the electronic order book.  
And why next Monday should hold no fear.

Order-driven electronic trading comes to the London Stock Exchange on Monday. Today, Merrill Lynch has a simple message for clients planning to spend the weekend worrying about it: don't. Institutional Fund Managers recently voted us No.1 in the UK for sales, sales trading and market making,\* and our client focus will be as sharp as ever when the new system starts. We are fully committed to making electronic trading work for all our clients. We are also fully prepared to continue providing liquidity to our clients. As everyone in London gets to grips with a different way of trading, commitment like this will make a deal of difference.

**The difference is Merrill Lynch.**

\*The Eurol Ranking of Investment Analysts Survey, July 1997.

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**Merrill Lynch**

A tradition of trust.



# Gains in thin trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	99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The Lord Mayor's scheme rewards the firms who employ their business know-how to improve inner-city life. John Young reports

## Breathing fire into community projects

It is easy to dismiss schemes such as the Lord Mayor's Dragon Awards as mere public relations exercises when you contrast the glittering towers and palaces of the City of London with the squalor and poverty that still afflict large parts of our inner cities.

In one sense that is what they are, but in the best sense, corporate involvement in community initiatives to help disadvantaged members of society is not going to make any converts among critics of late 20th-century capitalism. By donating money and a few hours of its employees' time to a "worthy cause", Mammon plc will not persuade the public that it has a heart as well as a purse of gold.

But experience has shown that a helping hand from the rich and influential can achieve highly rewarding results at grassroots level. Every successful example of corporate involvement, however insignificant its cost in finance or man-hours, symbolises a breaking down of barriers, often the greatest benefits are to company employees who gain experience and satisfaction from new interest and commitment. New friendships are cemented and new alliances forged between the most unlikely seeming partners.

Twenty-nine entries were short-listed for this year's tenth anniversary awards, sponsored by the Corporation of London in association with Carlton, and organised by Business in the Community. The judges were the Lord Mayor of London, Alderman Sir Roger Cook, Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, Colin Stanbridge, Director of Carlton Broadcasting, Lord Sheppard of Didgenere, former chairman of Grand Metropolitan, Martyn Lewis, the BBC newsreader, and Debbie Scott, trust director of Tomorrow's People Trust.

The winners in each of the seven categories announced at the Lord Mayor's Banquet at Mansion House last night are:

● City firm: Lloyd's of London. Immediately adjoining the City of London and increasingly linked to

it by the eastward expansion of commerce into the former docklands, the borough of Tower Hamlets nonetheless has one of the highest levels of social deprivation and one of the worst academic achievement records in the country. The paradox is partly explained by a heavy concentration of recent immigrants: 60 per cent of pupils regard English as their second language and more than half lack fluency in it.

The Lloyd's Community Programme was established in 1989 to focus on education, training and the encouragement of enterprise in Spitalfields, and was extended to include the whole borough. It provides core funding for the Tower Hamlets Education Business Partnership, with which it has established a highly successful reading project, in which large numbers of City workers take part.

In 1995 an appeal in the Lloyd's staff newspaper for volunteers to help pupils with reading produced an overwhelming response. Projects have been established in seven schools. Children's achievements are rewarded by excursions to places such as the Tower of London and Arsenal Football Club.

● Community Regeneration: The NatWest Group. During the past five years the group has committed more than £50 million in

cash and kind to community ventures. These include the NatWest Group Charitable Trust, which since 1995 has awarded some £4 million to community groups across the country to help them to find their own solutions to unemployment and social exclusion.

The trust works with 30 main partners in a project entitled Young People and the Changing World of Work. The aim is to encourage youngsters to take advantage of new employment opportunities and to gain the skills, confidence and experience they need to lead independent lives. Successful examples include the provision of loans and support for disadvantaged black youths in Bristol to set up their own businesses, training people with learning difficulties to undertake voluntary social work at



On his way to the top: a bricklaying trainee taking part in the Peckham Partnership gets advice on building skills on a John Laing site

a community centre in north London, and encouraging disaffected youngsters on housing estates in Wales to become involved in community projects.

Grants average £50,000 a year for three years, with additional awards at regional level. Several hundred company volunteers assist with advice and in assessing and monitoring projects. Seminars are held regularly to enable those taking part to share their experiences.

● Employee Community Involvement: BT Personal Communications Division. Working with Business in the Community, BT has established what it describes as "the largest company-to-community mentoring scheme in the United Kingdom". More than merely advising, "mentoring" aims to encourage young people to recognise and define their interests and to use them to pursue educational and eventually career ambitions.

More than 200 BT employees took part in the scheme, entitled Roots and Wings, in the 1996-97 school year. In the current year the number has increased to 325 and the number of secondary schools taking part from eight to 13. Schools are selected on the basis of having higher than average social needs.

An independent assessment by the North West Consortium for the Study of Effectiveness in Urban Schools found that Roots and Wings has made a significant impact on pupils' self-confidence, attitude to school work, skills, aspirations and awareness of the world outside school.

● London Partnership Award: John Laing plc and Grand Metropolitan. The National Tenants Resource Centre, which was

opened in Chester in December 1995 by the Prince of Wales, is the first residential centre in Britain to provide training, resources and communications for social housing associations and tenants' organisations. Professionally organised courses are aimed at instilling tenants with the expertise and confidence needed to manage and negotiate more effectively.

The centre is located in Trafford Hall, an 18th-century listed building which was purchased by

Grand Metropolitan Estates and made available, rent-free, for ten years, after which it should become self-financing. The building needed extensive repairs and refurbishment, for which John Laing provided help in cash and in kind, and also carried out the construction of extra accommodation units.

More than 5,500 tenants and community representatives have already attended courses at the centre. Small and newly established associations receive financial help to meet the costs of attendance from a scholarship fund established by the two companies.

● Education and Training: Bankers Trust Company. In each of the past three years the company has given a total of £75,000 to a charity, the Morpeth Educational Trust, formed in partnership with Morpeth School, in Tower Hamlets.

The partnership is reported to have played a significant part in raising standards of education, behaviour and motivation among pupils in one of the poorest areas of the capital. Within two years the overall GCSE pass rate has risen from 69 to 85 per cent; the rate for grades A, B and C has risen from 11 to 26 per cent.

Attendance is up from 82 to 90 per cent, and young people with

previously low expectations of achievement have come to appreciate the importance of further education and the opportunities it affords. Sponsored new activities include a school orchestra, a study weekend for final-year English and maths students, science field trips and a recent week in America for 20 pupils to meet their contemporaries at an American school.

● Special Business Award: Warwick Wright Motors. In 1992 the company was asked to consider providing work experience for young people from schools in Lambeth, southeast London, and agreed to accept students to work in its parts, service and administration departments. A number of other smaller garages have also joined the scheme.

Many of those taking part attend special schools. For students with social and behavioural problems, ordinary work experience has in the past often been considered impracticable, but involvement with cars can frequently help to stimulate new interests and talents.

Although some businesses with limited time and resources have had to limit their participation, Warwick Wright has maintained a year-round commitment. Service managers are available to discuss career opportunities, emphasising the key discipline of learning to work together as a team.

● Special Certificate for the best entry nominated by a community organisation: The Peckham Partnership. Including John Laing plc, Countryside Properties plc, CATOR Pioneers Tenants Association and Southwark Council, the partnership is dedicated to maximising the numbers of local people receiving training in the building trade and securing work on site. An average of 30 per cent of the workforce comprises people who live in the neighbourhood.

Regeneration of a number of huge housing estates has temporarily displaced large numbers of residents and emphasised the need for greater community involvement in upgrading living standards. A programme of work experience placements for Southwark Direct's Modern Apprentices is an initiative to take young people of both sexes off the unemployment register and recruit them for careers in carpentry, painting and bricklaying.



Bankers Trust is proud to be a winner of the 1997 Dragon Award, and would like to express its thanks and congratulations to the Teachers and Pupils of Morpeth School and Tower Hamlets Education Business Partnership, together with Bankers Trust employees, for their hard work, innovation, and commitment - key ingredients for a winning partnership

**Bankers Trust**  
Architects of Value

1 Appold Street, Broadgate, London EC2A 2HE  
Contact : nicola.haynes@bankerstrust.com.  
Tel : 0171 982 5729, Fax : 0171 982 5574

## It's good to talk.



BT would like to congratulate their Roots & Wings Mentors on winning the Employee Community Involvement Award.



## Weathering the storms







LONDON

**RICH PREMIERE:** Pioneer of minimalism, Steve Reich, returns to London with the Ensemble Modern to premiere *The Cracking of the Heavens*. Act 1 of the second video-opera *Three Tales*. The work is a comment on the impact technology has had on the 20th century and is a collaboration with video artist Beryl Reid. Two earlier works by Reich, *Music for Ensemble Instruments* and *Proverb*, complete the programme. Barbican, St. John's, EC2 (0171-638 8881). Sunday, 7.30pm. £5.

ELSEWHERE

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WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Murgie

7.30pm In a programme of Beethoven and Schubert Festival of Music (01274 452853)

EDINBURGH: Scottish Opera returns here for the first of three performances of Ian Judge's acclaimed 1992 production of Verdi's *Macbeth*. Norma Macmillan sings the role of the fated queen. Festival Theatre, Nicolson Street (0131 555 5000). Tonight, Nov 4 and 5. 7.15pm. £5.

RUSSIAN OPERA: The Moscow State Helicon Opera arrives at the South Bank this weekend with three fully staged works. Tomorrow night (7.45pm) there are performances of two short operas: Shostakovich's comic *Motus*, inspired with Prokofiev's tragic *Medea*, while on Sunday (7pm) there is a chance to see The Queen of Spades. Tomorrow's opera about a compulsive gambler and his downfall. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-950 4242). £5.

THEATRE STORIES: Short film Campbell season of tall tales to cheer the spirit and amuse the mind. National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Opera tonight, 7pm in rep. Until November 1. £5.

ELSEWHERE

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MANCHESTER: The versatile organist Wayne Marshall gives a recital of arrangements of works by Chopin, Wagner and Strauss. For the first number, Harts Concerto for Organ and Jazz Orchestra. Marshall is joined by the Royal Northern College of Music Jazz Orchestra conducted by Clark Funder. Bridgewater Hall, Lower Mosley Street (0161-907 9000). Tonight, 7.30pm. £5.

NORWICH: Tomorrow's major event at the Norfolk and Norwich Festival is a semi-staged performance in Norwich Cathedral (7.30pm) of Alexander's Feast, Handel's 1694 oratorio for voices, chorus and orchestra, set to words by Dryden. Robert Hollingworth conducts. Fagott, the Brook Street Band and the Cathedral Choir. A concert at St Andrew's Hall on Sunday (6pm) brings the summer's festivities to an end. The Trinity College of Music Symphony Orchestra and Choir perform two works by Beethoven, conducted by Andrew Quinn. Festival Box Office: (01603 764764)

LONDON GALLERIES

European Academy & Accademia Biennale, Jostea de Ochoa de Portugal (0171-258 0038). Hayman, Objects of Desire (0171-529 2144)

Museum of London: Bedlam: Outcasts, cures and care, 1847-1997 (0171-638 8881). National Remembrance: The Binding of Samson (0171-477 2885). National Portrait Gallery: (0171-306 0055)

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# File under girding of loins

Jimmy Nail is taking it easy this year — he's only tackling enough work to buckle two ordinary men. Paul Sexton reports

Jimmy Nail knows that his reputation precedes him. He greets me at a London hotel with a cheery "Right, Paul, you're the next one to be eaten alive." But whatever the demons of a turbulent northeastern upbringing that helped to create the image of the fire-breathing, journalist-munching, multimedia megalomaniac, Nail seems to have them under his thumb.

The singer/songwriter/actor/producer/one-man media centre has enjoyed, for him, a low-key year. No new television roles or movie projects, just an arena tour, a new best-of album and a couple of screenplays. It's the closest a workaholic such as him is likely to come to taking a year off.

"It's been a period of reflection and assessment," he says. "The intention was to have a relatively calm 12 months. But you get addicted to being on the box and in people's living rooms; it's quite difficult to step away from that. On the other hand, I found it liberating. In a scary kind of way. You're not sure what's coming next, but that's not too bad."

In the dozen years after his small-screen emergence in *Auf Wiedersehen, Pet*, Nail's frenzied schedules produced a series of that tangled tale of a country crooner, *Crocodile Shoes*, a cinematic debut in *Evita*, and a hugely successful singing career. But when, late in 1995, his work schedule nearly blew a fuse, Nail knew it was time for a rethink.

"I finished *Evita* on the Thursday evening and began the second *Crocodile Shoes* series on the Friday morning," he recalls. "That was madness. For the first two or three weeks, I was calling everyone the wrong names. When I think about the way I used to work, I must have been insane — 18-hour days, six, seven days a week."

When I visited him at his North London home in the summer, Nail was resting warily. "It doesn't come easy," he said then, "especially to a working-class lad who carries the whole guilt-ridden work ethic scenario, where unless you're out there digging a trench you feel like you're not doing something. But there are times when leisure time is actually more productive than being on the clock and trying to create."

Appearing in *Evita* gave Nail an insight into how the other half works. "I found it incredibly refreshing simply to be the actor for hire, to go in and be told what to do by somebody I greatly respect. If Alan [Parker, the director] doesn't like something he tells you why, you do it again, and then you leave and go home. It was tremendous. I hadn't done that since *Auf Wiedersehen*."

Unconsciously, he has fallen out of love with the medium that made his name. "I felt I'd got really stale, and I didn't have anything really special to give. I'm not interested in doing it just for the sake of working in television. Everything's so pared down financially; there's no adventure, no magic."

So he is working on a brace of screenplays for feature films and considering a movie offer. "If I could, I'd work regularly in features, because you have longer to do less," he says. "I'm used to doing episodic TV, and the schedules are becoming almost impossible."

Meanwhile, Nail's musical life is coming back to the boil. *The Nail File* album collects the highlights of his sure-footed recording endeavours, starting with the sophisticated 1985 version of *Love Don't Live Here Anymore* that first suggested these were more than the part-time pop dabblings of an itinerant actor. Big hits such as *Alibi*, *No Doubt* and *Crocodile Shoes* and stylishly reflective pieces such as *Paddy McAlone's Cowboy Dreams* and Nail's own *Big River* are the work of someone called to music early, as a spotty fan of Motown and Stax, before acting took him away.

Next year will also bring a new studio album, and the spring holds an enormous, 37-date *On the Boards* tour of Britain, so called as he is voluntarily scaling down to half-size venues. "I got a bit suspicious of my own motives on the last arena tour," he says. "There was something unsettling about the size of it. We sold the bigger halls twice, and the management would much prefer me to do them because it's more cost-effective. But I had such a good time when I was doing the city hall-sized venues. And I've never liked the idea of people travelling to see a band. The band should tour, not the audience."

• The Nail File is released by East West



Jimmy Nail demonstrates his file, a witty visual pun and cunning plug for his new greatest hits album

## The kings of rococo'n'roll

Come on, then, Stuart Staples of Tindersticks, explain yourself and your air of doomed magnificence

There is a certain vocabulary that you employ when writing about Tindersticks: a cheap red wine; velvet worn through the nap; chipped gilt; dusty ball-rooms with cracked glass ceilings; demob suits; ashtrays domed and full in the foreground as bored, lipstick-caked strippers kick their sequined knickers offstage in the background.

Even the sleeve of *Curtains*, their third album, speaks in Tindersticks' vocabulary. It shows a swatch of fabric or wallpaper sprawled with roses — and not the voluptuous, fat, scarlet woman-things of romance and erotica, no, but brown roses, dried and seemingly varnished with nicotine. The sleeve-notes are also worth perusing as, in the space where bands usually thank their mothers, their pubes and God, Tindersticks note that they are "outraged by Timothy Everest of *London*". Bands who revere tailoring are to be trusted. They know the importance of detail, texture, fit and flow.

So it's quite a shock to meet up with Stuart Staples, Tindersticks' singer and lyricist, and find that the 1990s still honk and hustle outside the restaurant windows, and that Staples himself has a mobile phone placed squarely centre table.

"My wife's due to have our second child any second now," he says, gesturing towards it apologetically. "I might have to run off and, um, stand around uselessly. I was there for the last one as well," he adds, rolling up a tiny matchstick of Rizla and tobacco, which flares and goes out instantly. "The colour of the umbilical cord was extraordinary — iridescent aquamarine, like insect's wings."

The other shock on meeting Staples comes from the discovery that his voice is exactly as it is on records: a hushed bass

rumble which slurs around the edges, like a drunken bear reading goodnight stories to a sleepy baby. It's inordinately soothing. My lids grow heavy and, at one point, I start to suck my thumb.

"It's a strange old voice," he says, relighting his cigarette and sighing as it instantly winks out again. "I don't really like it. I've only really wanted to be a singer in the last year."

Now, of course, Staples' voice is one of the most famous in Britain, thanks to Vic Reeves mimicking it in the *Shooting Stars* "club singer" round. But as *Shooting Stars* is so far removed from Tindersticks' world — I rather suspect Tindersticks' Bachelorette TV sets might not pick up BBC2 — we move on to the subject of the band's *unBritishness*. Their fluid passions seem rooted in Brazil or Spain, while the faded glamour speaks of Berlin while the Wall was still up, or Paris's more neglected boulevards.

"We're not part of that 'proud to be British' mentality," Staples acknowledges. "It's more of a means to an end. Our families are here, our houses and our children, but it's not something we feel we have to shout about. I feel I take something from each place I visit. We played recently in Stockholm, in the venue where they present the Nobel Peace Prize. It's this beautiful austere 1920s concert hall, and I went to look at it before the gig, and started imagining how we could play to suit the venue, how the architecture would aid the songs."

Rooted out of time, Tindersticks will never fade or wither in the fume-filled motorway of the charts. Rather, they will glitter and glow, like black rubies in the crown jewels of drunken adult symphonies.

• *Tindersticks'* new single, *Rented Rooms*, is released on Monday by Island Records



CAITLIN MORAN

## Who says nobody could do it better?

**DAVID ARNOLD** *Shaken and Stirred* — The James Bond Project (East West 3982/07382 £13.99). ALTHOUGH David Arnold has composed film scores for blockbusters such as *StarGate* and *Independence Day*, he is probably best known as the writer of Björk's 1993 hit *Play Dead*, which he incorporated in his soundtrack for the movie *The Young Americans*.

For *Shaken and Stirred*, Arnold has corralled a bevy of pop stars including Iggy Pop, Shara Nelson, Aimee Mann and Natacha Atlas, and set them to work on a selection of themes and songs from various James Bond movies. The result is a volatile marriage of the conventional (Martin Fry's volcanic rendition of *Thunderball*; Chrissie Hynde's plodding remake of *Live and Let Die*) and the unexpected (a light techno makeover of *Spacemarch* by Rulp which is more Cocker than Bond). Among the many highlights are a wonderfully kitsch version of *Diamonds are Forever* by David McAlmont, who out-Basseyes the original, and a lurching, block-rocking beats arrangement of *On Her Majesty's Secret Service* by the remix duo Propellerheads that is already a Top Ten hit.

Notwithstanding its merits as a drum & bass track, LIT

Bukem's treatment of the *James Bond Theme* itself reads it as unrecognisable as the piece of music, written by Monty Norman, which has accompanied so many richly implausible action sequences over the years. The original version is currently available on a new compilation, *Theology — The Best Of John Barry* (Columbia).

**LIGHTHOUSE FAMILY** *Postcards from Heaven* (Wild Card/Polydor 539 516 £13.99). EVERY so often an act comes along that doesn't so much fly in the face of fashionable wisdom as glide straight over it. One thinks of Dire Straits rising from the aftermath of punk or Sade calmly sailing in the top while the New Romantic hordes were still doing their worst. Having quietly arrived with a serene, upmarket brand of British soul during the heyday of raucous, guitar-driven Britpop, Lighthouse Family displayed a similarly timeless appeal with their multi-platinum debut album, *Ocean Drive*, released in 1995.

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

### NEW ALBUMS

The only problem is that having bucked the trend once, there is absolutely no incentive to interfere with a winning formula. So, for all its super-relaxed charm, *Postcards from Heaven* does have a rather complacent feel to it. Blessed with a voice that oozes soul quite effortlessly, Tunde Baiyewu rarely sounds as if he's operating at anything more than quarter strength.

Restless, with its lyric about "looking for my soul, hints at something deeper, and the title track has a breezy appeal. But overall, this album sounds just a little too suitable as wine-bar music for comfort."

**CHRIS DUARTE GROUP** *Tailspin Headwhack* (Silverstone ORE 548 £14.99). THE stumbling block for so many blues-rock guitarists

who take Jimi Hendrix and Stevie Ray Vaughan as musical role models is their inability to move beyond the slavish copying stage. Not so Chris Duarte, a sensationally gifted guitarist and singer from Austin, Texas.

True, some of his own songs on his group's second album, *Tailspin Headwhack*, have a somewhat familiar ring, and he even rattles off an obscure Hendrix instrumental called *Drivin' South*. But Duarte also has a tremendous feel for modern funk rhythms, harnessing B.B. King's standard *The Thrill is Gone* to a shuffling (programmed) beat and turning the old Meeters song *People Say* into a powerful, razor-crossed groove.

If you are at all tempted to buy yet another dodgy collection of "new" Hendrix outtakes, it would make better sense to check out *Tailspin Headwhack* first.

### ROACHFORD

*Feel* (Columbia 488526 £14.49). ONE of those artists who never seem to locate a natural constituency, Andrew Roachford virtually has to rebuild his career from scratch with every new album. Still, at least his record company has stuck with him, enabling the South Londoner and his self-named band to lavish the usual attention to detail on their fourth album, *Feel*.

As before, it is a strong, thoughtful collection of songs that do not so much straddle the divide between British rock and American soul as fall somewhere between the two. This time, however, numbers such as *The Way I Feel* and *Naked Without You* have a distinctly acoustic ambience, giving the album a softer, more accessible feel than in the past and leaving plenty of room for Roachford's powerful voice to occupy centre stage.

"Any way you ride/Got to pay the price," he sings in *Nothing Free*, and no one could dispute that Roachford has paid his dues. But while he clearly has the talent and the songs, he still lacks the timing and impatient personality needed to be a much bigger star than he is.

DAVID SINCLAIR

### TOP TEN ALBUMS

- |    |                       |                              |
|----|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1  | (1) Urban Hymns       | Verve (Hut)                  |
| 2  | (2) Be Here Now       | Oasis (Creation)             |
| 3  | (3) Freedom           | M People (M People)          |
| 4  | (4) The Big Picture   | Elton John (Rocket)          |
| 5  | (5) Portishead        | Portishead (Go! Beat)        |
| 6  | (6) The Nail File     | Jimmy Nail (East West)       |
| 7  | (7) The Velvet Rope   | Janet Jackson (Virgin)       |
| 8  | (8) Woman in Me       | Louise (EMI)                 |
| 9  | (9) White on Blonde   | Louise (EMI)                 |
| 10 | (10) Marchin' Already | Ocean Colour Scene (Mercury) |

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Figures in brackets denote last week's position

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John Howson, below, on a new strategy to attract graduates and Kevin Berry, right, on the status of teachers

# Recruiting plan goes big screen

**S**tar-studded commercials promoting teaching as a career will appear on cinema screens for the first time today. The advertisements, which feature Tony Blair and other leading figures, are the key element of the Teacher Training Agency's new recruitment strategy, which also features an award-winning exhibition stand with an Internet site as a central feature.

In the present competitive employment market for graduates, the TTA is only catching up with techniques used by other employers. The Ministry of Defence, for example, has used TV commercials to try to recruit service personnel.

There may have been a growth in graduate numbers, but teaching still needs about 20,000 new graduates if there are to be enough teachers to staff the schools. This makes the profession the largest single recruiter of graduates.

There are some success stories to report. In the recruitment round for courses that started this autumn, applications from graduates wanting to train as primary school teachers exceeded all previous records, with over 13,000 people, mostly women, applying for the 4,000 or so places available.

However, it is a different story when it comes to attracting would-be teachers to work in secondary schools. In many subjects, the number of applicants has been falling in each of the past four years. Many universities will have started the new term with vacancies on their maths and science PGCE courses despite the Government's decision last autumn to cut back on the number of places available.

In the field of design and technology, where industrial experience is often regarded as helpful for trainee teachers, the position is of even greater concern. When student numbers are counted later this month it is possible that little more than half the places on offer will have been filled. If there is a spare

of last-minute dropouts the final figure may be even worse. Even in English, traditionally thought of as an easy-to-recruit subject, the figures are disturbing. Mainstream PGCE courses attracted only about 150 applicants for each 100 places and half the courses in England and Wales still had vacancies at the end of August.

Recruitment problems place the training institutions in a dilemma. Clearly they don't want to recruit potentially poor teachers, but they do need enough students to make a course viable. In the past they have probably erred on the side of optimism and recruited students who needed considerable support to turn into adequate teachers. A point confirmed, at least as far as languages students are concerned, by Ofsted in its evidence to the Teachers' Review Body.

With the drive towards quality in education started by the previous Government and continued by this one, admissions tutors may, in the future, decide to offer places only to those who will clearly meet the quality requirements.

In the short term, such a move would be likely to depress the numbers being trained as secondary teachers still further. In the longer term, it would help to raise the standard of the profession.

However, for standards really to be raised, the Government needs to consider the link between economic reality and public sector pay. Put simply, the more people invest in their own education, forgoing the chance of earning now, the more they will expect a return on their investment at some point in the future.

As individuals are expected to pay for parts of their education, their attitudes are sharpened. Normally, that return is expressed in monetary terms by means of a higher salary, but that need not be the case. For women entering primary school teaching, it could be the chance to spend quality time



Tony Blair meets Eric Anderson, his former English teacher, whom he praises in the new commercial

with their children, either now or at some time in the future. There are also the intrinsic benefits of working with young children. Both of these reasons may go some way to explain the continuing buoyant recruitment to primary school teaching.

Secondary school teaching does not seem to have the same appeal. Adolescence is not an easy stage of many people's lives and working with this group *en masse* every day, seems to be less popular as a career option. The Government seemingly has a choice in its support for the TTA's attempt to attract better quality entrants to secondary teaching as a career — it can pay more, or it can offer some other form of return to individuals to repay their investment.

The cheapest option is to "talk up" teaching. The profession offers an intellectually challenging career

with a developing career structure. More defined career paths and better induction procedures, now being developed by the TTA, will follow the introduction of training for senior staff through various schemes. There is also the promise of a General Teaching Council.

On the financial front the zero rating of fees from PGCE courses from 1998 is good news but will take time to filter through to potential applicants. Salary levels in teaching are still competitive in many areas of the country but in London, when compared with figures released by the Association of Graduate Recruiters earlier this summer, both starting amounts and possible earnings after five years are beginning to fall behind many other employment opportunities.

There comes a point where teaching does not seem to provide

individuals with sufficient return on the investment they have made in their education. A knowledge-based society needs able graduates to staff its schools. Without such staff, it will also be more difficult to raise standards. Any shortage of teachers will be felt first and worst in the very schools that need the best teachers — those with the most challenging pupils. I started my teaching career in London during the recruitment crisis of the early 1970s. At that time many children were being taught by teachers without qualifications in the subjects they were teaching and teacher turnover was rapid. There is now a danger that they are reappearing in London in the late 1990s.

*The author, an education analyst, is writing in a personal capacity. Until recently he was the Teacher Training Agency's chief professional adviser on teacher supply.*

# They all want to be teacher's pet

**I**n my part of Yorkshire a story is often told when neighbours first meet each other. Windle was leaning over the hedge chatting to a neighbour who happened to be an accountant. Confused by a tax item, he asked the accountant for advice; the accountant gave it and then they changed the conversation to football or something equally flippant. Three days later, Windle received through the post an itemised bill — for the accountant's time and advice.

That is an extreme example of someone tapping into a neighbour's skill and expertise to solve a problem. Windle, poor chap, was a teacher and he had no expertise with which to barter, no expertise on which the accountant or any other neighbour would place any value.

I remember thinking at the time that people never seemed to seek a teacher's advice. It was simply because everyone was an education expert they had all been to two or three schools and they had been educated. In 20 years I cannot recall one instance of a neighbour asking my advice about the education system or a problem with a son or daughter. They knew best.

If help was needed with an after-dinner speech or a complicated letter, they would ask me — not because I taught English but because I wrote stories and articles for a rural magazine. That skill allowed me to tap into the neighbourhood expertise grapevine.

I often despaired that teachers were not seen in the same light, and I mean class teachers and not

just elite officer class. I had overwhelming admiration for Mrs Brooke, a wonderful reception teacher, who lived close by. She was remarkably unflappable, patient and capable of turning any screaming, brat into a happy, eager, curious and calm child. When my own children came, I would always ask her about suitable books and games and play groups, but I was the only neighbour who ever did.

Now things have changed, and the national curriculum is responsible. It might be irksome and irritating, but it has given teachers perceived expertise. Parents obviously have not experienced it and they haven't the time to read and understand the file after file of material. The expertise comes with a whole package of puzzling abbreviations and gloriously vague vocabulary. Don't understand it? Ask a teacher.

In the months before I left teaching, the national curriculum was sweeping in like a mill fire and the head teacher of my school arranged an evening to explain the NC and other bewildering new things to parents. The hall was packed as never before, and the parents demanded more. When I now see Mrs Brooke at neighbourhood gatherings, she is being asked questions about education: her expertise is being tapped into and that expertise has raised her status.

Windle is much happier. The accountant has asked his advice about exam revision books and even made an appointment with Windle. Will he send the accountant a bill? He's not saying.



The standards that all trainees must reach to gain Qualified Teacher Status include:

- **Knowledge and understanding:** know pupils' common mistakes, degree-level expertise of specialist subject (secondary), A-level knowledge for primary
- **Planning, teaching and class management:** identify clear objectives and content for every lesson, set targets for each pupil, establish a purposeful working atmosphere, maintain a good standard of discipline through well-focused teaching and positive relationships
- **Monitoring and assessment:** use testing to monitor strengths and weaknesses, present informative reports to parents
- **Other professional requirements:** Set a good example to pupils through presentation and personal and professional conduct

10p

THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES



Fax buddies Mandy Tobin and Donna Reading, of the Heathlands School in Hertfordshire, who are both profoundly deaf

# Message of hope from the fax

**P**upils on school trips to France often fight shy of speaking to the natives, but become wildly enthusiastic once their first muttered words are understood. Teachers are grateful to see children who have yawned their way through lessons suddenly start working out sentences and looking up words.

A three-month experiment using fax machines to enable deaf children — whose first language is British Sign Language — to talk English to adult volunteers has produced similar results. From a stumbling start, children whose first faxes consisted of only two sentences suddenly started turning out two pages of A4.

Nine-year-olds Mandy Tobin and Donna Reading, of the Heathlands School, St Albans, Hertfordshire, are both profoundly deaf and come from deaf families. Most of their friends are deaf. As the trial went on, they became confident enough to write to ask for an explanation when a promised picture did not turn up.

Their teacher, Sara Head, said: "It was highly motivating for them to get a fax back the same day. Knowing that someone at the other end would read their letter, the children wanted to develop written English skills. It was also useful for them to learn to use the technology. The fax machine is one of the ways in which deaf people will increasingly communicate with one another and with the outside world. One boy started to use his parent's fax machine at home to send messages to his uncle. Fortunately, our

# A commonplace machine is helping deaf children

adult volunteers have promised to continue with the scheme; if not, we would have sought new volunteers from local firms."

The eight schools that took part in the trial want to continue the scheme. About 1,000 faxes were exchanged by the 82 children, aged between seven and 16, and their adult "fax buddies" — volunteers from the National Association of Head Teachers, the BBC, the National Council for Educational Technology and BT. Teachers reported improvements in writing, grammar, spelling, handwriting, fluency, confidence and in readiness to try to communicate.

BT supplied the fax machines and produced a guide for the volunteers, explaining the need to keep sentences simple. Volunteers had to exercise some ingenuity in making their messages easy to understand; some initially used difficult vocabulary and complicated sentences. For example, the sentence "I sent the message on to him" baffled Mandy, who faxed back: "Why you sent to me I read your fax said message on to him. I said I am not boy am girl." This misunderstanding gave the teacher an opportunity to discuss the grammatical problem. The best fax buddies incorporated

sketches in their letters and asked simple questions to keep the conversation going. All the schools found that the length of the faxes children wrote increased during the life of the project. Teachers noticed growing independence in the pupils' approach to writing.

The scheme proved liberating for Charlotte Harrop, a teenager from Ashton-on-Mersey School in Cheshire, who started to use the fax to arrange shopping and social trips with a deaf friend.

Matthew James from the Deafex Trust, who helped to evaluate the scheme, said: "With the fax, children are able to read messages in their own time and consider their responses. The pressure to reply to questions on the spot can be very discouraging. That is why the fax is such a useful starting point for young deaf children."

Other educational benefits were clearer handwriting, development of a greater range of language use, increased vocabulary and a new enthusiasm for English. One girl's pleasure in receiving faxes shines through in her arduous message: "You can't send me fax on 25 May to June 1 (I go to Paris). You will send me fax on June 2, OK?"

JENNY KNIGHT

A guide to setting up schemes with hearing-impaired children similar to those with speech and language difficulties is available from Royal Society of BT: 01753 8006; fax 01753 8006.

Revolution in the classroom





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**And Tinky Winky is  
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forward; other leading universities with a strong commitment to research have shown an active interest. We believe that producing a greater coher-

● James Miller is Headmaster of the Newcastle Royal Grammar School and Dr Martin Stephen High Master of Manchester Grammar School.

Most students have other strings to their bows — I am continuing work as a journalist. But this time next year the name you see at the head of this column will, I hope, be up in lights.



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## Bewerbung

Bewerbungen mit den üblichen Unterlagen sind unter Angabe der Kennziffer T42/97 bis spätestens 4 Wochen nach Erscheinen dieser Anzeige an den Rektor der Fachhochschule Dortmund, Postfach 10 50 18, D-44047 Dortmund (Deutschland), zu senden.

## POSTS

Founded in 1839 by the Church of England, University College Chester offers undergraduate and postgraduate courses leading to the award of degrees of the University of Liverpool. Upon the retirement of the present incumbent on 31st March 1998, applications are invited for the post of

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Applicants must be communicant members of the Church of England or of a church in communion with it.

Further particulars and application form are obtainable from the Clerk to the Governors, University College Chester, Parkgate Road, Chester, CH1 4BJ. Tel: 01244 375444 Fax: 01244 373579.

E-mail: d.stevens@chester.ac.uk

Applications should be returned by: Monday 17th November 1997.

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St Edward's School is an independent HMC co-educational boarding school with 560 pupils aged 13 to 18.

Applications are invited for the Bursar's appointment which becomes vacant in August 1998 on the retirement of David Bramble after 11 years of distinguished service in the post.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate an ability in financial and business management and should have held positions of responsibility at senior level.

Applications enclosing curriculum vitae and names and addresses of three referees should be sent to: The Secretary to the Governing Body (BUR/1), St Edward's School, Woodstock Road, Oxford, OX2 7NN, no later than 25 October 1997.

## ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL, BRAMLEY

## BURSAR

The Governors of this high profile girls' independent boarding school are seeking applicants for the post of Bursar in the Summer of 1998 upon the retirement of Dick Hume after 11 years' service in the post. Applicants should be in the approximate age group 40-55 with a proven record of management skills, finance and organizational abilities.

For details write to:

Brigadier R T F Hume  
Bursar

St Catherine's School  
Bramley

Guildford

Surrey GU5 0DF

Tel: 01483 892562 Fax: 01483 894608

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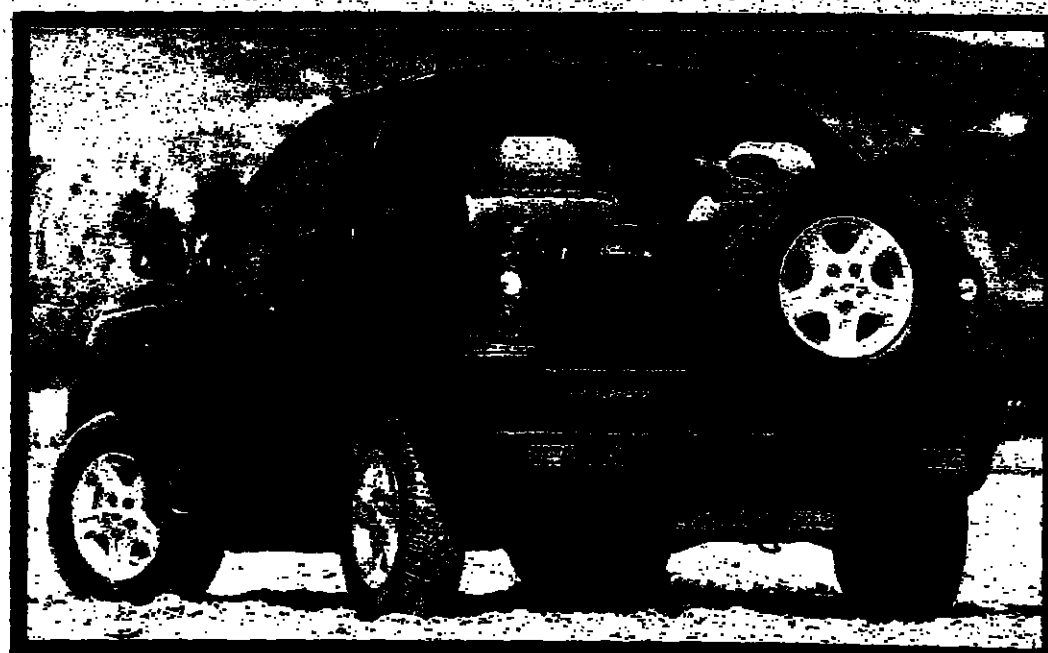
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No purchase necessary. You can check your tokens and an entry form by sending a stamped postcard to: The Times/Churchill Insurance Prize Draw, PO Box 3077, Leighton Buzzard LU7 1KD. A maximum of three bonus tokens per person permitted, requests for tokens must be received by November 1, 1997.

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CHANGING TIMES



## RACING: SOFT GROUND THREATENS FRENCH CHALLENGE FOR DEWHURST STAKES

## Dark clouds gather over Xaar

By Richard Evans  
RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE Dewhurst Stakes at Newmarket tomorrow is in danger of losing its billing as the best two-year-old race of the season because of doubts about the participation of Xaar — unofficially the top-rated juvenile in Europe.

The ground at Newmarket yesterday was officially good to soft and, unless it dries sufficiently in the next 24 hours so that the "soft" element of the going disappears, the Zafonic colt will almost certainly be pulled out.

The uncertainty prompted the Tote to suspend betting on the group one race and will have contributed to a sleepless night for Peter Player, chairman of Newmarket, as his racecourse prepares for its first "Champions" Day. "It would be desperately disappointing if Xaar doesn't run because it looks to be the best Dewhurst for years."

Nevertheless, one can understand the caution being exercised by André Fabre and Khaled Abdulla, the trainer and owner of the Prix de la Salamandre winner. They remember only too well how Zafonic, the winner of the Dewhurst Stakes in 1992 before a memorable success in the 2,000 Guineas, failed on his only run on soft ground — and his most celebrated son is showing the same dislike of the mud.

"Anyone is entitled to make a mistake once, but we must not make the same mistake with his son," Grant Pritchard-Gordon, racing manager to Khaled Abdulla, said yesterday.

"André Fabre specifically worked the horse on softer



The Puzzler, nearside, prevails in a driving finish to the Olivier Douieb Memorial Handicap at Newmarket yesterday

ground on Monday and said afterwards he was not the same horse. We are anxious to run but we don't want to make the same mistake we did with Zafonic and run on anything like soft ground."

Although the times of yesterday's races suggested the ground was slow, Newmarket has deliberately saved a 30-yard wide strip of ground on the stands' side for tomorrow and Nick Lees, clerk of the course, believes that will offer a faster surface.

While Newmarket needs a

change in the going, backers are desperate for a change in fortune. The starting prices for the winners of the first six races yesterday were 20-1 (20-1 on the Tote), 16-1, 20-1, 16-1 and 33-1 (23-1). In the finale, Zafonic, the 100-1 outsider, threatened for a brief moment to continue the trend — but he could not peg back Santillana, a 6-1 chance having his first race for 537 days. The most significant race of the afternoon involved the EBF Chesterton Maiden Stakes in which Albarhain,

reputed to be Godolphin's Derby horse for next year, attracted plenty of support and was sent off the 7-4 favourite. A good looking Silver Hawk colt, he was hollering in the parade ring but showed no signs of inexperience on the racecourse. Frankie Dettori had to tack over from a poor draw and looked set to win when taking up the running entering the Dip only for Border Arrow to swoop inside the final furlong and win going away by three lengths. Trained by Ian Bald-

ing and owned jointly by Bob Michaelson and Wafic Said, the Selkirk colt attracted a quote of 33-1 for the Derby, but Balding is far from certain he will stay 1½ miles.

That will not stop Michaelson dreaming of what may be during the long winter months. "He had been working nicely on the gallops with Ian's best and everyone supposedly had their best shots here," he said. "We had hoped he would run nicely into sixth or seventh — so this is a pleasant surprise."

## The Glow-Worm can take chance to shine in nursery

## NEWMARKET CHANNEL 4

2.05: Lucayan Indian impressed when flooring an odds-on favourite, Elthubab, at Newcastle last time and is open to considerable improvement. The well-made Indian Ridge colt stayed on particularly strongly through the final furlong and will be suited by today's longer trip. Abreeze had looked a useful newcomer when obliging at Sandown and would have sound claims if reproducing that form, but the Godolphin runner disappeared here two weeks ago, beating only one home. Sotvoss won a maiden in Italy three weeks ago but must give weight to his rivals.

2.35: Despite having to shoulder a 7lb penalty for his group three victory at Goodwood, Fairlie looks the safest option. Ben Hanbury's colt had Amid Albadu and Green Card behind that day and, on his latest start, failed to stay 1½ miles at Ascot. He won over course and distance in the spring and invariably runs his race. Green Card should be suited by returning



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

to a shorter trip and looks the biggest threat.

3.10: Any more rain would suit the mud-loving Snow Kid, who finished a good second behind Wizard King at the Curragh last month and races as though this shorter trip should suit. By contrast, the speedy Topsy Creek would not want the ground too soft as he attempts six furlongs for the first time. Unraced this term

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: ROYAL CASTLE (L30 Newmarket)

Next best: Lucayan Indian (2.05 Newmarket)

until last month, Ben Hanbury's sprinter put up a fine performance on his second start here 15 days ago and will go close.

However, Boline Joanne is the form choice judged on all her runs this term and she is ideally drawn next door to Topsy Creek.

3.45: Legend Of Love has a reasonable handicap mark after running three times over an inadequate six furlongs and looks sure to improve now that he steps up to a mile for the first time. Jeremy Glover, trainer of the Pursuit Of Love colt, has an excellent record at this track.

However, the best form on show is possessed by The Glow-Worm, who finished a good fourth behind Lend A Hand at Doncaster five weeks ago. Barry Hill's Doyoun colt did not look totally at ease on the fast ground that day and will be suited by this surface, having won on easy going at the July course. In an open race, Ben Rinnies, Generosity and Noble Demand can also be given a sound chance.

RICHARD EVANS

## CATTERICK

## THUNDERER

2.10 Merske Machine. 2.45 Swann Hunter. 3.20 Hlt The Spot. 3.55 White Ensign. 4.25 Tautan Boy. 4.55 Territory. 5.25 Alton's Mate.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.20 Odette.

## GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES)

DRAW: 5F-7F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

## 2.10 RICHMOND NURSERY HANDICAP

(2-Y-O; £2,500; 7f) (17 runners)

1 (15) 041 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
2 (16) 005 DECEMBER 3 (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
3 (17) 000 PRINCE OF WALES (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
4 (18) 000 PRINCE OF WALES (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
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9 (23) 000 PRINCE OF WALES (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
10 (24) 000 PRINCE OF WALES (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
11 (25) 000 PRINCE OF WALES (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
12 (26) 000 PRINCE OF WALES (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
13 (27) 000 PRINCE OF WALES (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
14 (28) 000 PRINCE OF WALES (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
15 (29) 000 PRINCE OF WALES (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
16 (30) 000 PRINCE OF WALES (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
17 (31) 000 PRINCE OF WALES (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85

## 2.45 FLOODMIRE WOOD APPRENTICE CLAIMING

STAKES (£2,225; 1m 3f) (12 runners)

1 (1) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
2 (2) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
3 (3) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
4 (4) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
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11 (11) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
12 (12) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85

## 3.20 EBF PROSPECT HILL MAIDEN STAKES

(2-Y-O; £3,672; 5f) (14 runners)

1 (1) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
2 (2) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
3 (3) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
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## COURSE SPECIALISTS

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## HEREFORD

THUNDERER: 2.10 Merske Machine. 2.45 Swann Hunter. 3.20 Hlt The Spot. 3.55 White Ensign. 4.25 Tautan Boy. 4.55 Territory. 5.25 Alton's Mate.

## GOING: GOOD

## 1.45 EBF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE

(£2,360; 2m 1f) (10 runners)

1 (1) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
2 (2) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
3 (3) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
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9 (9) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
10 (10) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85

## 2.20 FRIENDS OF ARTHUR ELLIOTT MEMORIAL

NOVICES HURDLE CHASE (£2,996; 2m 3f) (9 runners)

1 (1) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
2 (2) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
3 (3) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
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9 (9) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85

## COURSE SPECIALISTS

THUNDERER: 2.10 Merske Machine. 2.45 Swann Hunter. 3.20 Hlt The Spot. 3.55 White Ensign. 4.25 Tautan Boy. 4.55 Territory. 5.25 Alton's Mate.

## 4.05 WOODHOLE NOVICES CHASE

(£2,879; 3m 11f) (9 runners)

1 (1) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
2 (2) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
3 (3) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
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8 (8) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
9 (9) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85

## 3.55 CROWN HOLE BANK HANDICAP

(£4,008; 5f) (20 runners)

1 (1) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
2 (2) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
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20 (20) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85

## 4.25 THREES GILT LIMITED STAKES

(£2,888; 1m 3f) (15 runners)

1 (1) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
2 (2) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
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13 (13) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
14 (14) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
15 (15) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85

## 4.55 SOUR BECK CONDITIONS STAKES

(£2,000; 1m 3f) (9 runners)

1 (1) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
2 (2) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
3 (3) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
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9 (9) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85

## 5.25 CLOSE OF PLAY HANDICAP

(£3,772; 7f) (17 runners)

1 (1) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
2 (2) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
3 (3) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
4 (4) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
5 (5) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
6 (6) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
7 (7) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
8 (8) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
9 (9) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
10 (10) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
11 (11) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
12 (12) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
13 (13) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
14 (14) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
15 (15) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
16 (16) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
17 (17) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85

## 5.55 FOWNHOLE SELLING HURDLE

(£2,888; 2m 3f) (15 runners)

1 (1) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
2 (2) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
3 (3) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
4 (4) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
5 (5) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
6 (6) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
7 (7) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
8 (8) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
9 (9) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
10 (10) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
11 (11) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
12 (12) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
13 (13) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
14 (14) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
15 (15) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85

## 3.30 OYREVELL HANDICAP CHASE

(£2,710; 3m 11f) (6 runners)

1 (1) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
2 (2) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
3 (3) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
4 (4) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
5 (5) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
6 (6) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85

## 4.05 WOODHOLE NOVICES CHASE

(£2,879; 3m 11f) (9 runners)

1 (1) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
2 (2) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
3 (3) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
4 (4) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
5 (5) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
6 (6) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
7 (7) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
8 (8) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
9 (9) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85

## 4.35 HOLME LACY HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,880; 2m 1f) (10 runners)

1 (1) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
2 (2) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
3 (3) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
4 (4) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
5 (5) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
6 (6) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
7 (7) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
8 (8) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
9 (9) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
10 (10) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85

## THUNDERER

3.10 BOLLIN JOANNE (nap)  
3.45 Kim's Brave  
4.15 Fairy Rock  
4.45 Highly Pleased

Timekeeper's top rating: 3.45 BEN RINNIES.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.35 FAHRIS (nap). 3.45 Monsajem.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

1.30 EQUITY FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS HANDICAP

(3-Y-O; £2,212; 1m 0f) (14 runners)

1 (1) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
2 (2) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
3 (3) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
4 (4) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
5 (5) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
6 (6) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
7 (7) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
8 (8) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
9 (9) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
10 (10) 040 MISSALLANCE (D) (D) W 5-11 G 10/11 85  
11 (11)



# David Powell on the Briton about to defend her Chicago Marathon title Sutton taking the Windy City by storm

Winning the Chicago Marathon can lead to many things. For Marian Sutton, the benefits did not stop with her arrival home last year, when she found the local mayor waiting in her front room with a bouquet, or with tickets to attend a gala athletics night at the Park Lane Hotel, or with a lucrative deal to appear in the London Marathon.

Chicago adores its marathon champions and, not wanting to wait a year before seeing Sutton again, sent her an invitation to return in June to help to promote the marathon and compete in the Hard Rock Cafe five-kilometres road race. Oh, and would she like to throw the first pitch for the White Sox in their baseball match against the Minnesota Twins?

Paul Evans, Sutton's fellow Briton, who had won the men's Chicago Marathon title, was also asked to pitch, but declined. Not Sutton, daunting though the prospect was. When the part-time solicitor's secretary from the Cornish fishing village of West Looe lines up to defend her title here on Sunday, she will not be as nervous as she was when she walked out to the pitcher's mound before 25,000 spectators at Comiskey Park.

However, everything Sutton does in Chicago seems to go right. Not only did she win her road race but, according to Chris Hartweg, the Chicago Marathon media director, she did such a "wonderful job" pitching that she received an ovation. "She reared back, threw it and made it 60 feet to the home plate on the fly [without bouncing]," Hartweg said.

The distance on which Sutton's sights are fixed this weekend is somewhat longer: 26 miles 385 yards. If she is optimistic about winning, it is because her form has been even better than it was before the Chicago Marathon last year. People have begun to wonder if she is ready to displace Liz McColgan as Britain's No 1 woman distance runner.

Few think she is, but the challenge is in place. Five weeks ago, Sutton finished



Pounding the beach: lack of adequate facilities in West Looe means that Sutton has to use the Cornish coastline for training purposes

clear not only of McColgan but also of Derartu Tulu, the world cross-country champion, in the Great North Run half-marathon, setting a personal best time of 69min 41sec. Then, two weeks ago, in the Great South Run ten-mile race, Sutton pressed McColgan into a lifetime best of her own. McColgan won in 52:00, Sutton improving by almost 40 seconds to 52:15. Both times, she finished second.

In between duels with McColgan, Sutton won a ten-kilometre race in another personal best, 32:28. There is no doubt for Sutton to race against here, the Scot opting for the Tokyo Marathon on November 30, but the elite field includes six athletes who have achieved something she never has, a sub-2hr 30min marathon. That does not include the latest rising Kenyan, Lornah Kiplagat. Aged 23, Kiplagat trains with Joyce Chepchumba, McColgan's

conqueror in a thrilling London finish last April. It all went horribly wrong for Sutton in the London Marathon because she was "so obsessed" with breaking 2hr 30min. She finished twentieth in 2:35:45. "I got it totally wrong in the way I was thinking," Sutton said.

## 'People are asking if she can replace Liz McColgan as the British No 1'

Last year, Sutton's measured approach here paid off and she became only the second British woman this decade, after McColgan, to triumph in one of the main commercial marathons. She trailed Kristy Johnston by half a minute in the 24th mile but timed her run perfectly for a personal best 2:30:41.

Her victory was worth \$43,000 (about £27,000) in

prize-money and bonuses and that, together with her increased market value, might have persuaded her to give up work. Living in West Looe is hardly ideal for an international runner and, as if being remote from training partners is not disadvantage enough, limited street lighting forces

she is wavering. "I am undecided about working because the concentration of training has made a difference," she said. "In the winters, I struggle because of the lack of facilities. I am going to have to restructure it somehow."

Having Mondays off has enabled Sutton to recover from long journeys back home after Sunday races. "I used to miss Monday morning training a lot because of the travelling," she said. "I was too tired to get up and go before work."

Aged 34, Sutton is an imposing 6ft. Although some have suggested that her height is a disadvantage for a marathon runner - Joan Benoit-Samuelson, the former Olympic champion, among them - Sutton has never let that worry her. This woman from a tiny Cornish village will form a big presence in the Windy City on Sunday. Nobody here is betting against her blowing the opposition away.



Sutton runs to victory in Chicago last October

## SQUASH

# Nicol and Harris pool resources

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN IN ALEXANDRIA

MUCH may be learnt here this week about the benefits of bringing squad psychology to the highly individual business of professional squash competition.

Peter Nicol, of Scotland, and Del Harris, of England, drew support from the management and coaching expertise of Neil Harvey and David Pearson, the men behind England's junior and senior men's world championships over the past two years, to reach the semi-finals of the Egyptian Open. But two of the most individualistic players emerged to bar their way to the final today.

Nicol, 24, of Inverurie, who has risen to world No 3 with Harvey as his personal mentor, was scheduled to meet the world champion, Jansher Khan, whom he defeated the last time they met in the final of the Al Ahram International in Egypt, last June.

Jansher speeds around the world with his friend and cousin, Mehboob, always going home to Peshawar between tournaments and usually in dispute with some part of the game's authorities. At present he is refusing to defend his world title in Malaysia next month because of legal problems in that country

over child maintenance for his seven-year-old son, Kamran.

While Nicol was tidying away Simon Parke, of England, 11-15, 15-8, 15-7, 15-12 in a 73-minute quarter-final - after which he was as sympathetic about Parke's tiredness late in the game as he was pleased with his own relaxed performance - Jansher battled through 83 minutes of noise to overcome Ahmed Barada and his Egyptian following 10-15, 15-6, 15-13, 15-12.

Harris, 28, with Pearson in his corner, defeated Julien Bonetat, of France, 15-13, 15-5, 15-8 to reach a semi-final against Jonathon Power, 24, from Canada, who has shaken up the PSA World Tour this year with his humorous and inventive front-court play.

Power, who likes to embarrass his opponents with delay and deceit as much as to defeat them for ranking points, has so far this year managed both ambitions three times each against Nicol and Harris, closing them out of the French, Hungarian, US and Hong Kong events.

A breakthrough against the Canadian might trigger in either British player queries about the effectiveness of the traditional lone warrior approach.

# Fitz-Gerald win leaves room for improvement

SARAH FITZ-GERALD, the defending champion, and Michelle Martin, her main rival, swept into the quarter-finals of the women's world championship in Sydney yesterday and remain on course to meet in the final.

Fitz-Gerald, the top seed, and her Australian compatriot, Martin, the No 2 seed and triple world champion, were hardly tested as they made short work of their opponents. Fitz-Gerald beat Robyn Cooper, also of Australia, 9-3, 9-4, but said that her opponent had exposed some weaknesses in her game.

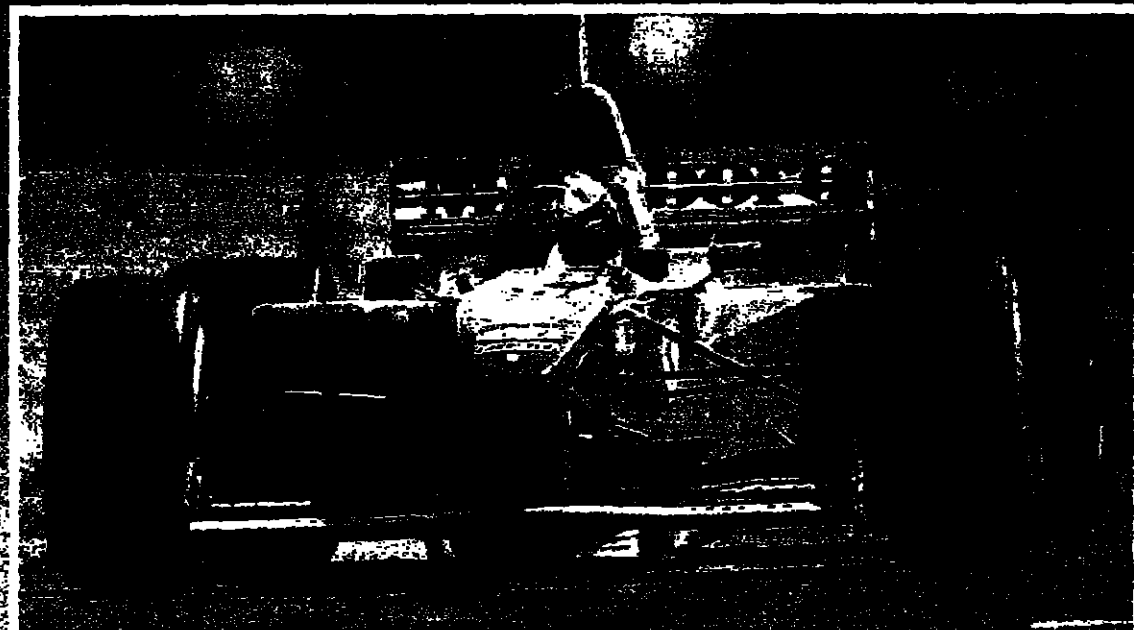
"Robyn is a talented player and she figured out a few ways to play me," Fitz-Gerald said. "It made me think of a couple of things to fix up in my game and I will work that before my match tomorrow." Fitz-Gerald plays Suzanne Horner, the No 8 seed from England, next.

Martin disposed of Leilani Joyce, of New Zealand, 9-5, 9-3, 9-0, though she said that she had struggled to adjust to the Perspex court after a rest day during the split first round. She will play Sabine Schonen, the No 7 seed from Germany, today.

## EXCLUSIVE TIMES NEWSPAPERS GRAND PRIX COMPETITION



# Fantasy race heats up for our £25,000 top prize



THE PRIZES The manager with the best score after the European Grand Prix will win £25,000 courtesy of our sponsor, Marlboro World Championship Team. Prizes of £10,000 and £5,000 will go to two runners-up. The manager with the best score at the Japanese GP wins a trip for two to next year's British GP. The runner-up will receive a Sony PlayStation and CD-Rom game.

## HOW THE POINTS WERE SCORED AT SUZUKA

**DRIVERS:** Qualifying points (scored by qualifying for the start of each grand prix within the first 20 positions on the grid): Pole J Villeneuve 30 points; 2nd M Schumacher 25; 3rd E Irvine 24; 4th M Hakkinen 23; 5th G Berger 22; 6th H-H Frenzen 21; 7th J Alesi 20; 8th J Herbert 19; 9th G Fisichella 18; 10th O Panis 17; 11th D Coulthard 16; 12th R Barrichello 15; 13th S Nakano 14; 14th J Magnussen 13; 15th S Nakano 12; 16th P Diniz 11; 17th D Hill 10; 18th G Morbidelli 9; 19th U Katayama 8; 20th T Marques 7.

**Finishing points (scored for the top 20 classified positions at the end of every grand prix):** 1st M Schumacher 60 points; 2nd H-H Frenzen 50; 3rd E Irvine 40; 4th M Hakkinen 30; 5th J Villeneuve 25; 6th J Alesi 28; 7th J Herbert 27; 8th G Fisichella 26; 9th G Berger 25; 10th R Schumacher 24; 11th D Coulthard 23; 12th D Hill 22; 13th P Diniz 21; 14th J Verstappen 20. (Only 13 were classified. D Coulthard was classified although he did not finish the race.)

**Lap points (one point for each lap completed):** M Schumacher 53 points; H-H Frenzen 53; E Irvine 53; M Hakkinen 53; J Villeneuve 53; J Alesi 53; J Herbert 53; G Fisichella 53; G Berger 53; R Schumacher 53; D Coulthard 52; D Hill 52; P Diniz 52; J Verstappen 52; M Salo 48; T Marques 46; O Panis 36; S Nakano 22; U Katayama 8; R Barrichello 6; J Magnussen 3.

**Improvement from starting grid to finishing position (3 points for each improved place):** J Verstappen 21 points; D Hill 15; H-H Frenzen 12; P Diniz 9; R Schumacher 9; M Schumacher 3; J Alesi 3; J Herbert 3; G Fisichella 3.

**Fastest lap time of grand prix:** H-H Frenzen 10 points.

**Penalty points incident resulting in a driver being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted):** none. Did not finish the race (10 points deducted): D Coulthard -10 points; R Barrichello -10; M Salo -10; O Panis -10; U Katayama -10; S Nakano -10; T Marques -10; J Magnussen -10. Not starting after qualifying (10 points deducted): G Morbidelli -10 points. (G Morbidelli qualified in 18th position on the grid but did not take part in the race due to his accident in the qualifying session.) Speeding in the pit lane (5 points deducted): none.

**CONSTRUCTORS:** Finishing points (scored for the first car only in the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): Ferrari 30 points; Williams 25; McLaren 23; Benetton 21; Sauber 20; Jordan 19; Arrows 15; Tyrrell 13. Penalty points incident resulting in a car being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): none. Elimination of a car during the race (10 points deducted): Prost -20 points; Minardi -20; Stewart -20; McLaren -10; Tyrrell -10. Not starting after qualifying (10 points deducted): Sauber -10 points. Speeding in the pit lane (5 points deducted): none.

With up to 600 bonus points available in next Sunday's European Grand Prix for the managers who correctly predict the first three drivers to cross the finishing line, the race for our £25,000 top prize is still wide open. Printed below are the results of the Japanese Grand Prix. Heading our leaderboard is A Bradley of Godalming, Surrey. His team, Slickhead 3, scored 746 points at the Japanese Grand Prix to take his cumulative score in the competition to 11,963 points. Hot on his tail in second position is I Dowry of Reigate, Surrey. His team, Dow Jones 2, scored 723 points in Japan to take his total to 11,952 in the competition. D Shepherd of Montrose, Angus (Raith Rovers FC, 11,860 points), M Wood of Bromley, Kent (Wood Racing, 11,860 points) and P Watley, East Wittering, W Sussex (Team UDC, 11,732) are all poised to take advantage of any slip-ups at

the European Grand Prix. Lewis of Beckenham, Kent, wins a trip for two to next year's British GP. His team, East Forward, scored 796 points in Japan. C King of Rochester, Kent wins a Sony PlayStation and CD-Rom game. His team, Colly Cuts, scored 796 points. They were selected at random from all managers who scored 796 points at Japan.

**TRANSFERS:** Change up to your selections before the European Grand Prix by calling 0891 555 994 (+44 990 100 394 ex UK) before noon on Thursday, October 23.

**CHECK YOUR SCORE:** Check your score and position by calling 0891 555 994 (+44 990 100 345 ex UK).

**PLEASE NOTE:** The results printed here for the Japanese Grand Prix may change subject to the FIA disciplinary hearing for Jacques Villeneuve next Tuesday.

## OUR LEADERBOARD AFTER THE JAPANESE GRAND PRIX

POS	TEAM NAME	MANAGER NAME	POINTS
1	Slickhead 3	A Bradley	11963
2	Dow Jones 2	I Dowry	11952
3	Wood Racing	M Wood	11860
4	Raith Rovers FC	D Shepherd	11860
5	Team UDC	P Watley	11732
6	Mosulvie	J Madden	11729
7	Forza 27	M Joannides	11700
8	Waite Racing F1	P Waite	11656
9	Stay'am	Ms Slogh	11636
10	Sky Stars	A McPhee	11596
11	Fantail Racing	R Crosby	11596
12	Diamond	M Parsons	11596
13	Burridge Racing	I Burridge	11596
14	Grow 97	P McKenney	11596
15	Sennasational 5	G Curry	11596
16	Bea T on	M Dymond	11591
17	The Very Real Club	J Heighway	11580
18	Red Menace 1	M Power	11580
19	Marfi's Maniacs	M Johnson	11580
20	Thompson Terrors	A Thompson	11580
21	Rufus II	S Daniels	11580
22	Bangers	R Mullen	11580
23	Mark's Wizards	Mrs H Evans	11580
24	—	A Pearce	11580
25	Stavia G1	S Georgiadis	11580
26	Adam's Autos	S Adams	11580
27	Harris Rule Racers	N Roberts	11580
28	GFO	A Gent	11580
29	Georgie	M Clark	11580
30	Snic Racing	N J Trott	11580

## MAKE THREE SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THE FOUR GROUPS BELOW

GROUP A		GROUP B	
01 D Hill	99 1211	13 O Panis	43 1655
02 M Schumacher	141 1857	14 J Verstappen	93 1052
03 J Villeneuve	112 1750	15 U Katayama	6 860
04 E Irvine	117 1358	16 P Diniz	93 968
05 J Alesi	104 1737	17 R Rosset	0 0
06 G Berger	100 1476	18 R Schumacher	100 1122
07 M Hakkinen	106 1187	19 G Fisichella	100 1480
08 D Coulthard	81 1343	20 S Nakano	24 1039
09 R Barrichello	11 781	21 G Morbidelli	1 1586
10 H-H Frenzen	148 1556	22 T Marques	43 871
11 J Herbert	102 1418	23 J Magnussen	6 762
12 M Salo	36 1219	24 V Sospiri	0 0
GROUP C		GROUP D	
25 Williams	25 260	31 Arrows	15 3
26 Ferrari	30 250	32 Sauber	10 180
27 McLaren	13 122	33 Tyrrell	3 1
28 Benetton	21 283	34 Minardi	-20 8
29 Jordan	19 146	35 Stewart	-20 -157
30 Prost	-20 114	36 Lola	0 0

\* Olivier Panis replaces Jarno Trulli in the Prost team. Tasso Marques replaces Trulli at Minardi and at Sauber. Gianni Morbidelli, who originally replaced Nicola Larini, replaces Fontana.

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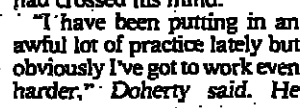
# Saint-Andre returns to captain France

FRANCE (v Italy, tomorrow): J-L Sadourny (Colomiers), L Laffontand (Bourgnon), C Larnelsson (Brive), T Castaignède (Castres), P Saint-Andre (Gigacourt), capt; T Lacroix (Harlequin), F Galthié (Colomiers), F Fourmaire (Toulouse), M Dal Miso (Agen), C Cellano (Toulouse), O Broutet (Béarn-Bordeaux), O Marie (Montmarion), F Peloux (Toulouse), L Cabannes (Harlequin), A Benazzi (Agen).  
 Replacements: J Cazalbon (Toulouse), S Glas (Bourgnon), P Barneton (Agen), O Magne (Brive), A Benaz (Cast), C Soulier (Béarn).

Mutual trust lies at the core of New Zealand rugby, which translates into what Blair describes as "mateship." He said: "They talk a lot about being in the dressing-room at the end of a game and being able to look each other in the eye—they really mean it. The All Blacks are a very emotional group of men; they may not show it, but they really get emotional about the game. They care about not letting their mates down." If he can help to engender that spirit, then New Zealand's loss will be England's gain.

Hallett's views are expressed in a month when several leading clubs are showing signs of financial distress and in a week before Channel 5 will confirm details of a weekly rugby programme, to which the clubs have contributed substantially.

The Irishman, who squandered a chance to pot the black in the eighth frame for a 5-3 victory, was adamant that his



After the games in Germany, Spuyave will announce the squad to play South Korea, the Olympic silver medal-winners, in two

West has led from AJIS4 of hearts, and now the defence will take the first five tricks. If he takes the king of hearts, he will be all right if West has the king of diamonds, or if East has the king of diamonds and the hearts were initially 4-4. That's what happened — all the declarers who received a heart lead went down in Three No-Trumps.

Note that within the confines of the heart suit it can

proceeding in

The world championships start in Tunisia this weekend and Great Britain are represented in the women's event, the Venice Cup. From Monday onwards, watch this space for the latest results.

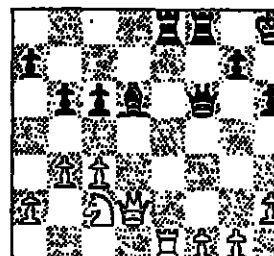
Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

□ Raymond Keene writes chess Monday to Friday Sport and in the 'Weekend' section on Saturday.

**DUNDAS SEPARATION**  
a. A chemical experiment  
b. A divorce case  
c. A bankruptcy scandal

**DIOGENES**  
a. A Greek ship-owner  
b. A London Club  
c. A famous bloodhound

**Black to play.** This position is from the game G. Hernandez — A. Hernandez, Cuba 1997. In this battle of the Hernandezes, 'A' found a clever way to break into 'G's' position and reach a winning endgame. What did he play?





## Bonetti ready to go on parade at Palace

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

CRYSTAL Palace yesterday signed the Italian midfielder player, Ivano Bonetti, on a week-to-week basis.

The former Grimsby Town and Tranmere Rovers man originally impressed the Palace manager, Steve Coppell, in a trial match last week. "I felt he was the best player on the day," Coppell said. "We are signing him on a short-term basis for three or four weeks."

"He has very good vision and, at the age of 33, he has great mobility. I don't really have a vacancy in the squad, but he won't cost a transfer fee — just his wages. So I thought why not give it a chance. He is determined to play in the Premier League. That can only be good for Palace and myself."

Bonetti started his career in England with Grimsby, but left for Tranmere after a dressing-room clash with then manager, Brian Laws.

Coppell was having a busy time in the transfer market. He snapped up the young Wolverhampton Wanderers full back, Jamie Smith, in a "straight two-for-one swap" as both Dougie Freedman and Kevin Muscat, the 24-year-old Australian, travelled to the Midlands.

"The Freedman deal has been mooted for a couple of weeks now," Coppell said. "In an ideal world, I would like to have kept Dougie, but his contract was up shortly and under the Bosman ruling, he would have been free to move. We had a similar situation with David Hopkin at the end of last season."

"At the moment we have got a surplus of right-backs and Mark McGhee needed to replace Jamie and Kevin wants first-team football."

Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, yesterday ruled Roy Keane, the Republic of Ireland midfielder, out of the World Cup finals next summer. Ferguson does not believe Keane can recover from the cruciate ligament injury in time to play in France, should the Republic beat Belgium in the play-offs. "I think we could have him back training in April. Thereafter we have to really monitor the type of injury Roy has because it is such a bad injury."

"He will be back — there's no doubt about that — but I'm looking more to the start of next year," said Ferguson. Asked if he felt that Keane would be competitively fit this season, Ferguson said that, at best, Keane would only be training.

"There's a big difference between normal training and football training and taking part in football, because the injury is a type of injury that needs a long recovery."

"It needs a really good rehabilitation period and you need luck too. Hopefully, these three things will fit in nicely for Roy and hopefully, when he does start training in April, there will be no signs of the injury."

Asked if Keane would be fit enough to play in the World Cup finals next June, Ferguson said: "I personally don't think so."

FOOTBALL: MERSEYSIDE CLUB FAVOURITES FOR COCA-COLA CUP AFTER FOURTH-ROUND DRAW

## Liverpool convinced cup is real thing

BY DAVID MADDOCK

IT DOES not take much to become favourites for the Coca-Cola Cup; merely, it seems, an assertion that your club will not snigger at the very mention of the competition. When Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, suggested, therefore, that he would field his strongest possible side in the competition and his team was handed a home draw against Grimsby Town in the fourth round, the book-makers could do little else but break for cover. Odds of 11-4 still look somewhat generous, given the rest of the draw.

Manchester United have already fallen by the wayside and, with Arsenal pursuing a policy of resting their leading players for the competition, the way looks invitingly open for Liverpool. The obvious dangers are Newcastle United and Chelsea, but both have been handed stern examinations.

### DRAW

FOURTH-ROUND DRAW: Leeds v Reading; Middlesbrough v Bolton; Chelsea v Southampton; Derby v Newcastle; West Ham v Walsall; Liverpool v Grimsby; Arsenal v Coventry; Oxford United v Ipswich.

To played in week of Nov 17

tions against FA Carling Premiership rivals, Chelsea at home to Southampton and Newcastle an extremely tricky tie at fast-improving Derby County.

It all leaves Evans with an air of satisfaction, especially after the kind draw. "I know that other clubs have a different attitude, but we will try to win anything we enter," he said. "We have a tradition in this competition and it would be wrong not to honour it."

"We have won the trophy five times and I will select the strongest side to try to make it six. It is none of my business how other teams view the Coca-Cola Cup, but we want to win it. We are pleased to have a home draw, but I don't think we are obvious favourites. Grimsby will come to Anfield with their confidence high after a fine win over Leicester."

Such bullish sentiment will

be music to the ears of the sponsor, but one still wonders if Evans has pitched it right. Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, could barely contain his joy after his side was knocked out of the competition by Ipswich Town on Tuesday, his broad smile speaking volumes.

With a UEFA Cup place no longer on offer, the obvious question remains, what is the point? Why should Liverpool embroil themselves in the heavy programme that success in the cup will bring, when they have far greater prizes to pursue. It is the Premiership that Evans must win if he is to secure his management tenure, not an empty day out at Wembley.

In saying that, there are plenty of clubs that would appreciate a trip to the twin towers before the grand old stadium is remodelled and the Football League has not yet given up hope of regaining a European berth for the winners.

Uefa has removed it from next season, but the Football League has petitioned the European Commission in Brussels in the hope of winning it back. Chris Hull, a League spokesman, asserted yesterday that there is still genuine confidence. "Our efforts in Brussels are going well," he said. "They have been very sympathetic and we really are very confident that the winners of the Coca-Cola Cup will qualify for Europe next season."

West Ham United, with a home draw against Walsall, are interesting 10-1 chances to lift the trophy, but perhaps the most attractive bet of all is the 5-1 available against Chelsea, even though the London club received some further bad news yesterday.

Gustavo Poyet, their Uruguayan international, underwent an operation in Brussels after snapping knee ligaments in training and will be absent for the rest of the season. However, Raul Gullit, the Chelsea manager, has already indicated that he does have money available to sign a replacement.



Poyet, right, of Chelsea, who will be out for the rest of the season after snapping knee ligaments in training

## Anderton enjoys quick half

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

TOTTENHAM Hotspur received some overdue good news in a difficult season yesterday when Darren Anderton took part in his first competitive game since May.

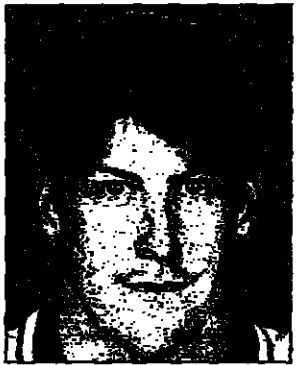
The England winger, who has been out of action for five months because of a hamstring injury, played 45 minutes for the reserves against Norwich City without suffering any adverse reaction, but said that he was too short of match fitness to be considered for the FA Carling Premiership match against Sheffield Wednesday at White Hart Lane on Sunday.

"There's no point in my coming back because of a bad result for the team on Wednesday," Anderton said. "It's been a nightmare and I want to be out there, but I would be silly to come back too soon."

It had been planned that Anderton would play only the first half against Norwich and he admitted that he felt tired

for the last 15 minutes. "It shows I'm not right to go straight in the first team," he said. "When I do return, I want to be completely right. There is another reserve game next Wednesday and that is my next target. Hopefully I can play for an hour, or even all of that one."

"I need to play for at least an hour before coming into



Anderton: low-key return

consideration for the first team. The main thing for me is that the hamstring feels fine. It would be silly to go straight into a Premiership game."

His eventual return will go some way towards easing the air of gloom at Tottenham, which was exacerbated on Wednesday when they were beaten 2-1 by Derby County in the third round of the Coca-Cola Cup. Anderton has played fewer than 30 games for Tottenham in two years and his absence this season — alongside several other first-team players — has coincided with poor results and a mounting campaign by supporters against Gerry Francis, the manager.

Anderton showed glimpses of his quality in the low-key surroundings of Chigwell, firing in a 30-yard free kick that Bryan Gunn, the Norwich goalkeeper, tipped over. The match finished 1-1.

## Breakaway clubs lose vote

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE proposed breakaway league in Scotland ran into procedural difficulties yesterday when a meeting of the Scottish League management committee descended into farce.

Each of the six premier division representatives were told that they could not vote on their individual club motions to resign from the Scottish League. Because of the precarious balance of power on the 12-man committee, it meant that Celtic, Rangers, Dundee United, Aberdeen, Hibernian and St Johnstone were defeated 6-5.

The four other premier division clubs without representatives — Dunfermline Athletic, Heart of Midlothian, Motherwell and Kilmarnock — were able to win their votes, but two required the casting decision of Doug Smith, the committee chairman and Dundee United vice-chairman.

Peter Donald, the Scottish

League secretary, said that it was a principle of natural justice that any member putting forward a motion should not be allowed to vote on its outcome. "With the ten clubs putting forward identical resolutions there were ten votes, but in only four of those

Doubts over the future of Roy Aitken as the manager of struggling Aberdeen increased yesterday, with the club's Supporters' Association adding its voice to the growing discontent.

could all 12 members vote," he said. "The management committee felt unable to support the resolutions of six of the clubs and all voting was in accordance with prior precedent."

"Our position remains as it always has been from the moment the clubs made clear

they wanted to set up their own league. They have to persuade the 30 other member clubs that change is in their best interests and today's lost votes showed they have yet to do that."

The next stage for the management committee is to hold a special general meeting, when all clubs will be asked if the four given initial permission to resign can leave at the end of the season. It appears to leave the remaining six in limbo, but Campbell Ogilvie, of Rangers, said it would only delay the inevitable.

"What happened here was tactical voting," he said. "What we were trying to do was shorten the two-year period of giving notice to leave."

"Because of the sponsorship and television deals being up at the end of the season we wanted to move now. The ten premier clubs will meet in the next few days to decide on our next course of action."

## Witton go in search of elusive cup-tie success

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL  
BY WALTER GAMMIE

VICTORY in the first qualifying round of the FA Umbro Trophy tomorrow would help Witton Albion to end an unwanted cup run and shift the gloom of a turbulent 12 months at Wincoburn Park.

Witton, Trophy finalists in 1992 and semi-finalists in the years on either side, came into the competition at its earlier stage with a home tie against Farsley Celtic without having won a cup-tie of any description since beating Hyde United in the Cheshire Cup final in May 1996.

Eight consecutive losses make grim reading. Last season brought cup defeats at the first hurdle in the FA Cup, by Kidderminster Harriers, the Trophy, by Workington Town, the Unibond League Cup, Cheshire Senior Cup and mid-Cheshire Senior Cup.

This season, Witton, losing their exemption to the fourth qualifying round — sustained after a memorable appearance before Match of the Day cameras against Bolton Wanderers in 1991 — went down 5-0 to Gainsborough Trinity in the first qualifying round of the FA Cup. To add to their woes, Nantwich Town, of the Bass North West Counties League, dispatched them from the Cheshire Senior Cup 1-0 and Droylesden knocked them out of the Unibond League Cup 2-1.

Like many a club before them, Witton, fuelled by a new ground, opened in 1990, a three-year spell in the Vauxhall Conference and their cup runs, swallowed success greedily before suffering a hangover of substantial debts.

They thought that they had found a saviour in Terry Warrander, who had owned a locally-based aircraft services business. However, his 18-month spell ended last September in frustration at council opposition to plans to develop the club's 13-acre site. It was followed by the swift departure of Ray Ransom, the manager, and the break-up of the side. The club has since moved to the Unibond first division.

Before the end of the season, Witton had been through Bryan Griffiths and Paul Bennett as managers. Before a ball was kicked this season, Kevin Tully, the new man in charge, had lost Nigel Deeley and John Bingham, his experienced assistants.

Their legacy was a vastly-improved squad, with Darren Washington, formerly of Congleton Town, topping the League's goal charts with 11, and Graham Abel, formerly with local rivals Northwich Victoria, and Kevin Langley arriving to give the team a solid look that has kept them among the division's front-runners.

To complete the restoration of self-respect, Witton now just need that elusive cup win. If the worst came to the worst against Farsley, they will, however, have the consolation of knowing all about their rivals, whom they have never played, when they travel to their ground for a league match the next week.

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### CRICKET

## Pakistan may turn to Rizvi for second Test

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

PAKISTAN have called up three spinners, including the uncapped Ali Rizvi, after preparing a turning pitch for the second Test match against South Africa that starts at Sheikhupura today.

After the first Test in the three-match series ended in a high-scoring draw at Rawalpindi, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) ordered the groundsmen to prepare a pitch suitable for the home spinners. "The pitch has been prepared according to guidelines provided by the board," Mohammad Bashir, the chief groundsmen, said yesterday.

The Municipal Stadium at Sheikhupura is staging only its second Test match and Bashir said that he expected the pitch to turn from the first day. "I hope this pitch will produce a result," he said.

Rizvi, a wrist spinner, who took 11 wickets for a PCB XI at Karachi in South Africa's opening tour match, joins Mushtaq Ahmed and Saqlain Mushtaq, the off spinner, in a squad of 13. Saeed Anwar, the Pakistan captain, said that Rizvi was full of promise. "He has the ability to make the ball bounce and turn on a helpful

pitch," he said. The Karachi-born spinner enjoyed a successful tour of England with the Pakistan A team in the summer, taking 28 wickets.

Pakistan welcome back Wasim Akram, who returns to the first-class game after five months' absence because of a shoulder surgery. Wasim, now fully fit, has happy memories of the ground where, a year ago, he scored his career-best 257 not out against Zimbabwe.

The South Africans will not name their side until just before the start. "The pitch looks a definite turner but we have good spinners in Pat Symcox and Paul Adams and we have complete faith in their abilities," Bob Woolmer, the coach, said.

With Brett Shulz, the left-arm fast bowler, having already pulled out of the tour because of a shoulder problem, the two other players with fitness doubts are Dave Richardson, the wicketkeeper, and Allan Donald. The uncapped Mark Boucher has blown in as a possible replacement for Richardson, who is suffering from a hamstring injury.

## Udal is set to lead Hampshire

SHAUN UDAL could become only the second Hampshire-born cricketer to captain the county this century after he emerged as favourite to replace John Stephenson.

Udal, the off spinner, was a member of England's last World Cup squad in Australia and is likely to succeed Stephenson, whose resignation was accepted by the Hampshire committee earlier this week.

Udal, 28, who was born in Farnborough, would be the first Hampshire man to lead the county since George Taylor in 1939. Udal said: "All the players were shocked at the way John decided to stand down. We have to look to the future of Hampshire cricket now."

Doubts remain over whether Stephenson, who has scored 2,257 runs and taken 109 wickets in first-class matches for the county, will remain with Hampshire. The former Essex and England opening batsman is heading for a three-month break in South Africa and said: "I'll be taking some time out to consider my options."

### SPORT IN BRIEF

## Zimbabwe triumph

ZIMBABWE emerged unbeaten at the end of the preliminary matches in the President's Cup three-nation cricket tournament in beating Kenya by seven wickets at the Aga Khan grounds in Nairobi yesterday. Zimbabwe cruised to 210 for three after 41.2 overs in reply to the Kenya innings of 207 for nine in 50 overs.

Asif Karim, the Kenya captain, dismissed the match as a mere formality, since Kenya had already qualified for the finals tomorrow and Sunday.

## Champion Australia

HOCKEY: Australia beat Holland 3-1 to clinch first place in the six-nation Champions' Trophy in Adelaide yesterday. Stephen Davies opened the scoring for Australia and Paul Gaudoin put the home side 2-0 up in the 26th minute. Bram Lomans scored for Holland in the 35th minute before Paul Lewis secured victory for Australia. Danish Kaleen scored in the final minute to give Pakistan a 1-1 draw with Spain in the other match.

## Happy homecoming

TENNIS: Martina Hingis made her first appearance in Switzerland as world No 1 yesterday, at the European indoor championships in Zurich, and swept to an easy victory in the second round. Hingis, who defended her first quarter-finals title last week in Eindhoven, advanced to the quarter-finals by dispatching Anne-Gaëlle Sidot, of France, 6-3, 6-2.

## Stepping on the gas

POWERBOATING: Charles Burnett III, from London, yesterday broke his national record for gas unlimited class boats on Windermere. On the fourth day of the annual Powerboat Record Attempts Week, he took his offshore craft, Culture Vulture, up to 94.5mph, 20mph faster than he had achieved earlier in the week.







## Hollywood to hail boxer who beat life-threatening injuries

## Star is born as Pazienza wins fight for his life

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

IF EVER there was a boxer who stepped out of a movie, it is Vinnie Pazienza. There is nothing about the fast-talking, wise-cracking, 34-year-old from Rhode Island that is not stranger than fiction. The former International Boxing Federation (IBF) world lightweight champion, who is now campaigning as a super-middleweight, is not just a throw-back to the good old days of boxing, he is also cast in the mould of the tough Italian fighters of the Forties and Fifties — Marciano, La Motta, Graziano, Basilio.

Pazienza arrived in London yesterday to publicise his bout with Herol Graham, of Sheffield, on December 6. "After I beat Graham, I want to fight Rob in Reid, as he is the WBC [World Boxing Council] champion," Pazienza said. "It's a green belt. I want it badly as it matches the colour of my couch at home."

**The war is only over when you quit — and I never quit**

If Graham's re-discovery of his youthful energy and enthusiasm against the world-rated Chris Johnson last July was incredible, the fact that Pazienza is fighting at all is little short of miraculous.

The courage and determination that he showed in getting back into the ring after a car accident in Rhode Island in 1991 is the very stuff of movies. Indeed, Hollywood is already making a film of his career entitled *Life and Soul*, with Christian Slater playing the lead.

The doctors said that Pazienza would never walk again. His neck and spine were shattered and he was in serious danger of being paralysed for life. Jim Burchfield, his manager, said: "His head and body was only held together by a thin nerve. If that

had gone he would have been dead or paralysed. The doctors said: 'Vinnie you're never going to fight again', and Vinnie said: 'Doc, you don't know. I am Vinnie Pazienza — I'm going to fight again'."

Pazienza put on 20lbs in hospital, eating chocolates, and went home after a month wearing a steel head brace with four screws embedded half an inch into his skull that held metal pipes around his head. Despite opposition from his family and doctors, he started training secretly at his home. One day he was found lifting weights using his neck muscles. He was invited by Foxwood's Casino to use its health and training facilities in Connecticut. "It was not to see if he could fight, but just to see if he could get into shape," Burchfield said. "Then the doctor gave the approval to spar. The accident also gave Vinnie another comfort level of a new weight. He always had trouble making the weight and every time he lost a fight it was because of this problem. He had so much trouble making the weight that he developed an ulcer." Although Pazienza became world champion at lightweight, making 9st 6lb left him dehydrated.

Pazienza came back in 1992 as a middleweight and strung nine wins together, including victories against Lloyd Honeyghan, Robbie Sims, Dan Sherry and Roberto Duran, twice. The most quoted words of the "Pazmanian Devil" are: "It's like I'm always on the inside of a coffin trying to get out. I'm always trying to overcome some obstacle all the time. The war is only over when you quit and I never quit."



Pazienza talks about his incredible life at his press conference yesterday.

After being stopped in six rounds by Roy Jones, the IBF super-middleweight champion, in June 1995, Pazienza surprised the experts by beating Dana Rosenberg in four rounds in Atlantic City in August last year, but earned a \$5,000 fine and a 90-day suspension, from the New Jersey State Athletic Commission for knocking down the referee, Tony Orlando. Pazienza did not stop hitting Rosenberg once he had him going — and, when Orlando

stepped in to save Rosenberg from further punishment, he received two blows and slumped to the floor. Pazienza said yesterday: "I like Tony Orlando a lot, but Larry Hazard [the New Jersey Commissioner] sent the letter three weeks after the fight that I was suspended and that I would have to pay a small fine. So I wrote back to him pleading temporary insanity. If people can get off murder raps for temporary insanity I was sure I could get

off throwing two punches after the ref jumped in." As Pazienza has not yet paid the fine, he is still suspended and will not be able to box in London until it is. Frank Maloney, the promoter of the London bout, who is prepared to offer Reid, and Joe Calzaghe, the World Boxing Organisation champion, \$1 million to face the winner of the Graham-Pazienza bout, should not have too much trouble in finding \$5,000 to see that the contest goes ahead.

## RUGBY LEAGUE

## McDermott gets Great Britain call

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

BRIAN McDERMOTT has been called into the Great Britain squad for the British Gas international series against Australia next month. The 27-year-old Bradford Bulls prop forward has been brought into the 22-man squad after the refusal of Western Suburbs to release the former Leeds and Widnes forward, Harvey Howard.

McDermott, who toured the southern hemisphere with Britain a year ago, joined up with Andy Goodway's squad at their north Manchester training centre yesterday. Phil Lowe, the Britain manager, said: "With a little more than three weeks before the first international, we decided that we could not wait to see if Harvey was released. Brian had a big season for the Bulls and we are very happy that he was available to come into the squad. His game is direct and strong, which will make him the ideal kind of player to face Australia."

Britain are still waiting to hear from the Australian Rugby League as to whether the Wigan pair of Jason Robinson and Gary Connolly will be available for the series.

The 24-year dispute between the governing bodies running professional and amateur rugby league in Britain finally showed signs of ending yesterday. The wrangling that has affected the sport since amateur officials broke away to set up the British Amateur Rugby League Association (Barla) in 1973 was cast aside at a meeting at Brighouse, West Yorkshire.

The first step towards reunification was taken when Sir Rodney Walker, chairman of the Rugby Football League (RFL) and Mike Morrissey, Barla counterpart, put their signatures to the setting-up of a joint-policy board.

Sir Rodney will chair the new board, which will comprise five members each from the RFL and Barla. A youth commission has been established to resolve the thorny subject of rugby league at schoolboy and student levels.

## TELEVISION CHOICE

## A nasty sting in this tale

999 Lifesavers

BBC1, 8.00pm

Having recently given us a series of elaborately reconstructed international rescues, the 999 team returns with more modest incidents from nearer home. Which is not to say that they did not frighten the victims, though all happily recovered and are here to tell their stories. It is particularly good to see the smiling face of five-year-old Maddie, after hearing how she was stung more than 100 times by a swarm of bees while on a school trip. As proof that it is not being simply voyeuristic, her story is linked with first-aid advice. We also hear how a mobile defibrillator was used to save the life of a fairground worker whose heart had stopped. And two surfers who had been caught by a rip tide and spent five hours in the sea, rescued by a beam of light from a strobe armband led to their rescue.

Grimed Force

BBC2, 8.30pm

Alan Titchmarsh and the garden makeover team are in Milton Keynes where Stuart, a prison officer, has spent two years trying to build a garden. In his absence, Titchmarsh and company decide to finish it, while also creating a pond, a formal garden and a croquet lawn. The appeal of this series is not only the endless banter it provokes but the unexpected setbacks. The other week it was a neighbour objecting to a new garden shed. Tonight, the shocks are supplied by Stuart's partner, Julie. Rather late in the day, after a big hole has been dug in the lawn, she announces that Stuart dislikes formal gardens. There is worse. She did not realise the job was to take 48 hours and Stuart is on his way home a day early. It is a good thing Titchmarsh is on hand, for there can be nobody better to charm away a crisis.

Dangerfield

BBC1, 9.30pm

One of the pluses of the current series has been minimal appearances by Dr Paul Dangerfield's tiresome children. The poor man has got enough to do without having to drop everything and minister to the wretched Al and Mary. Besides, the show works better when its main plot is not constantly interrupted. There is a nasty tale tonight, based on



George Burns, Walter Matthau (BBC1)

what could be a double bluff. In the opening sequence we apparently see a young man strangling his girlfriend after a row. This gives us a start on the police, who are alerted when the young woman goes missing. But supposing that what we saw was not a murder at all? The puzzle is neatly sustained, with a surprise or two along the way. It is good to see Bill Weir's Dr Nick, featuring strongly, and there is a memorably edgy performance by Julian Rhind-Tutt as the putative killer.

Parkinson: The Interviews

BBC1, times vary

Walter Matthau and George Burns had just made *The Sunshine Boys* when they came on Michael Parkinson's show in 1976 and, sure enough, the film gets generous mention. On the other hand, why not? It is an enjoyable movie and it represented a remarkable comeback for Burns whose previous screen appearance had been in 1939. Moreover, playing one half of a musical double act was his first acting part and he was getting on for 80. Facing Parkinson, the two men from the Lower East Side are in fine form. Matthau shows his ability to do accents and demonstrates how his mother walked when she had too many cups of tea and needed to go somewhere fast. But when it comes to telling jokes Matthau is hopeless and it is left to Burns, the wily old vaudeville, to show him how. Peter Waymark

## RADIO CHOICE

Kes

Radio 2, 9.15pm

I would wager that most people who recall this story do so from its film version, made by Ken Loach in 1969, and would probably remember it as a rather sentimental story of a boy and his basket. Indeed, that is exactly how I remember it. So this, the start of an eight-part reading adapted from the original Barry Hines novel, *A Kestrel for a Knave*, is a welcome reminder that *Kes* is in fact a tale from a gritty, sombre background in a northern mining town. The boy, Billy, is abused at home. He is about to leave school, qualified only to work down the nearest pit, a prospect that horrifies him. But when he takes a young kestrel from a nest his outlook changes radically. The reader is Stephen Tompkinson.

## RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zolt Ball 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Wiley, includes 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Dave Pearce 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Pete Tong: Essential Selection 6.50 Judge Jules 11.00 Radio 1 Rap Show with Tim Westwood 1.00am One in the Jungle 1.30am MC Navigator at the Spider Club in Newcastle 4.00 Charlie Jordan

## RADIO 2

6.00am Alan Lester 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 8.30 Ron Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30am Debbie Thompson 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Hubert Gregg 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night. With the BBC Concert Orchestra as part of the *Live at the BBC* series. 8.15 News. See Choice 10.00am to 12.00am The Arts Programme 12.05am Patrick Lunt

## RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Mark 2.00pm Pledge on Five 4.00 Nationwide 7.00 News 7.30 Sportscast 8.30 Friday Sport, including Carls United v Preston North End 10.00 Paper Talk 11.00 News Extra 12.00 After Hours 2.00am Up All Night with Richard Dwyer 5.00 Morning Reports

## VIRGIN RADIO

5.00am Nick Abbott 7.00am Lynn Parsons 10.00 Graham Dene 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 (FM) Robin Banks (AM) Nicky Horn 7.00 (FM) Paul Coyte (AM) Calm Jones 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Howard Pearce

## TALK RADIO

6.30am BR Overton and Carol McMillan 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Mot Dee's Sportzone 10.00 Mike Allen 1.00am Mike Dickinson

## RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Schubert (Symphony No. 8) and Brahms (Symphony No. 1). 7.30am Performance on 3. A concert, recorded last week in the City Hall, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Northern Sinfonia under Jean-Bernard Pommery, piano. With Sylvia Elliot, soprano, Bradley Cresswell, violin, Laurence (Pete) Cornall, Stravinsky (Dance of the Veils), Handel (Concerto Grosso in A minor, Op 6 No 4), Mozart (Vesperae Solennes de Consolatione, K393). 10.00 Musical Encounters. Includes Bizet (Chanson Bohème, Carmen); Wagner (Carmen Fantasy); Taffanel (Fantasy on Mignon); Liszt (Preludes, Op 10); Debussy (L'Isle Joyeuse); Purcell (The Vesper Song); Fauriel (Musique); Schmitt (Gratulations Fando). 12.00 Composer of the Week: Gilbert. 1.00pm News. The BBC 3 Live News Concert. Live from St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol. Sophie Yates, harpichord. Includes Menuet (Susanna in Act 1); Fanny (By Me, Poor Heart); Lesau. 2.00pm The BBC 3 Live News Concert. Live from St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol. Sophie Yates, harpichord. Includes Menuet (Susanna in Act 1); Fanny (By Me, Poor Heart); Lesau. 3.00pm The BBC 3 Live News Concert. Live from St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol. Sophie Yates, harpichord. Includes Menuet (Susanna in Act 1); Fanny (By Me, Poor Heart); Lesau. 4.00pm The BBC 3 Live News Concert. Live from St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol. Sophie Yates, harpichord. Includes Menuet (Susanna in Act 1); Fanny (By Me, Poor Heart); Lesau. 5.00pm The BBC 3 Live News Concert. Live from St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol. Sophie Yates, harpichord. Includes Menuet (Susanna in Act 1); Fanny (By Me, Poor Heart); Lesau. 6.00pm The BBC 3 Live News Concert. Live from St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol. Sophie Yates, harpichord. Includes Menuet (Susanna in Act 1); Fanny (By Me, Poor Heart); Lesau. 7.00pm The BBC 3 Live News Concert. Live from St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol. Sophie Yates, harpichord. Includes Menuet (Susanna in Act 1); Fanny (By Me, Poor Heart); Lesau. 8.00pm The BBC 3 Live News Concert. Live from St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol. Sophie Yates, harpichord. Includes Menuet (Susanna in Act 1); Fanny (By Me, Poor Heart); Lesau. 9.00pm The BBC 3 Live News Concert. Live from St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol. Sophie Yates, harpichord. Includes Menuet (Susanna in Act 1); Fanny (By Me, Poor Heart); Lesau. 10.00pm The BBC 3 Live News Concert. Live from St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol. Sophie Yates, harpichord. Includes Menuet (Susanna in Act 1); Fanny (By Me, Poor Heart); Lesau. 11.00pm The BBC 3 Live News Concert. Live from St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol. Sophie Yates, harpichord. Includes Menuet (Susanna in Act 1); Fanny (By Me, Poor Heart); Lesau. 12.00am The BBC 3 Live News Concert. Live from St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol. Sophie Yates, harpichord. Includes Menuet (Susanna in Act 1); Fanny (By Me, Poor Heart); Lesau.

## RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 6.45 Tips from Women Gardeners (3/5) 6.55 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs (1) 9.45 Gerry's Bar, with Gerry Anderson (3/4) 10.00 (FM) News. Old Southport Guide (4/5) 10.10 (LW) An Act of Kindness 10.15 (LW) On This Day, with Geoffrey Wheeler 10.30 Women's Hour. Includes the short story The Great Leonardo, from the collection *Gravity*, written by the Times Literary editor Erica Wagner. Joanna Pinnock. 12.00 News. You and Yours. Consumer news and current affairs with Mark Whittaker. 12.25pm The Food Programme. See Choice (1) 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One 1.40 The Archers (1) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News. Classic Series: The Lifted Veil. The final part of Jonathan Holloway's serial, adapted from the novel by George Eliot. 3.00 News. The Afternoon Shift, with Laurie Taylor. 4.00 News. 4.05 Kaledoscope. Tim Marlow looks at the history of outdoor advertising. 4.45 Short Story. The Falkirk Meddler, by Douglas Young. Read by Paul Brichard (1) 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Going Places. David Stafford presents more ideas for the weekend ahead

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 Pick of the Week. Chris Sante presents his edition of extracts from BBC radio and television over the past seven days. 8.05 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby chairs the topical debate in Woolton, Liverpool. Panelists include Stephen Byers, Minister of State at the Department of Education and Employment and the Liberal Democrat parliamentary spokesperson, Lambert Cook. 8.50 Judging the Judges. Professor Simon Lee talks to Lord Browne-Wilkinson (3/3) 9.15 Letter from America, by Alistair Cooke. 9.30 Kaledoscope. Features Mone Lhas, Tim Marlow traces the history of de Wit's masterpiece (1) 9.50 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Story of Mr Sommer, by Patrick Süskind, translated by Michael Hofmann and read by Alistair McGowan (3/3) (1) 11.00 Week Ending. The satirical news show. With Jon Glover, Sally Grace, Dave Lamb and Sarah Parkinson. 11.25 Fourth Column. A sideways look at the week. 11.45 Beyond the Millennium. Clara Durkin, President of the New York Peace Academy, shares predictions for the future (1/5) (1) 12.00 News. 12.30am The Late Book: The Drowned World, by J.G. Ballard. Read by Nicholas Farrell (1/1) (1) 12.48 (LW) Shipping Forecast 1.00am World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6. LW 198. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1093. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Deor, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McManus.

REMEMBER  
BLACK MONDAY?  
WE DO.

On Cable and Satellite

7.00pm

World News

7.30pm

World Business Today

Tonight, as we approach

the 10th Anniversary of

Black Monday, we ask:

Will history repeat itself?

8.00pm

World News

8.30pm

Q&amp;A

9.00pm

News Europe

9.30pm

Insight

10.00pm

News Highlights/

World Business Today

**CNN**  
INTERNATIONAL



running a marathon every day: underestimate.


Elsewhere, *A Dance to the Music of Time* (Channel 4) dominates, perhaps not quite as annoyingly as last week but certainly not less off. Particularly frustrating are those who had worried about "who's who" was that half of the barely turned up in this second instalment. Stringham arrives merely to confirm that he was drinking too much and Temperance show that his choice of cars was still better than his choice of women. In their place were awful lot of Tolland sisters, who married or had affairs with all the men who were left.

Mind you, they all did better than Uncle Giles (Edward Fox) who picked up just time to die in the first score for the night, two sudden deaths, untempered windings and just the one, apparent, statutory, full-frontal nude scene. Or don't mad houseplants count.

## CHANNEL 5

**CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE**  
Channel 5 is now broadcasting transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder 63 are picture: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz.

**6.00am** 5 News Early (2758727)  
**7.30** Milkshake (7771524) 7.35 USA Hit (4127386) 8.00 Have a Haze (9151017)  
**8.30** World News A New series explaining world of art (1/15) (8151494)  
**9.00** One in Three: Coping with Cancer (5234475) 10.00 Exclusive (8) (8071030) The Car Show (1) (8151630)  
**11.00** Lasse: Chat show (1) (85253)  
Double Espresso (1) (4056574)  
The Bold and the Beautiful (1) (8121230pm) Family Affairs (1) (7960080)  
**1.00** 5 News Update (99222307) 1.05 Star Search (1) (1189659) 2.00 5.00 Cont (4466765)  
**3.30** How to Murder a Millionaire starring Joan Rivers as a Beverly Hills socialite convinced her husband trying to kill her. A comedy directed Paul Schneider (3599524)  
**5.20** 5.5 Company: Late Extra (557475)  
**5.30** Whittle (1) (8135746) 6.00 10.00 Cent (8132859) 6.30 Family Affairs (8118651) 7.00 Name That (8973901)



**Boy George on fashion (7:30p)**

**7.30** **Exclusive** presented by Boy George  
highs and lows in celebrity life  
(8145123)

**8.00** **Jenny Holzer Squats** (6969649)

**8.30** **5 News** (T) (6978456)

**9.00** **Stalking Laura** (1993) with B  
Shields and Richard Thomas. A  
about a young man whose crush  
workmate turns to an obsession. Dir  
by Michael Switzer (89082104)

**10.50** **La Femme Nikita** Female special  
adventures (3410253)

**11.45** **Perfume of the Cyclone** (1990) st  
Kris Kristofferson as a Chicago cop  
tropical island trying to save the cap  
from the clutches of a white-slave r  
Directed by David Irving (8140098)

**1.25am** **Night of Courage** (1988) st  
Bernard Hinrichs. A drama about a

**3.15** Puerto Rican who is persecuted gang when he starts dating a white girl. Elliot Silverstein directs (3985505)

**3.15** **Dreams of Gold: The Bel Flusher** (1986) starring Cliff Robertson & Loretta Swit. *The story of a searching for the wreck of a 17th-century Spanish galleon.* James Gold directs (5319876)

**4.45** **Night Stand Spoof** chat show (229...)

**5.30** **100 Per Cent (r)** (5372012)

9.30 Tied  
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(2770524) 5.00 History Encore: Ties  
Legend Lives On (8775494) 7.00 B  
phy: The Pied Baron — Master of  
(5707861) 8.00 Close

**CHALLENGE TV**

5,000pm Cross Wins (8,746) 5.30 S  
Word (5920) 6.00 Family Fortunes  
6.30 Catchphrase (1185) 7.15 The  
Question (57472) 8.00 Spili The  
(167123) 8.30 Move On Up (7655)  
Winner Takes All (936678) 10.00 Ten  
Hurt (43494) 11.15 Whistle (48814)  
Say The Word (72418) 12.30am Hi  
Story 1.30 The Big Valley (50012)  
Bag of Money (34762) 1.00m K  
(26537) 2.30 Where I Live (40012)  
National Geographic Explorer (76215)  
Shopping (74609)

**UK LIVING**

8.00am Lucky Ladders 8.35 Long

Gordon 12:00  
 The Young and the Restless 11:55  
 Magic and Miracles 12:25  
 Tempest 2:30  
 Live at Three 4:05  
 Lucky Ladies 6:35  
 Heart Is On 7:00  
 Magic and Miracles 6:00  
 9.00 FM: A Burning Passion  
 Margaret Mitchell Story 10:55  
 11:30 More Star Lite 12:00 Close

**ZEE TV**  
 7.00am - Jeopardy 7:30 Film Desam

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## ATHLETICS 42

Sutton in the running for Chicago Marathon

## SPORT

FRIDAY OCTOBER 17 1997

## RUGBY UNION 43

Blair gets England fit for survival



£13m fee scares off Ferguson

# United get cold feet over Chile striker

By DAVID MADDOCK

MANCHESTER United have reacted with some amusement to suggestions that they are about to pay £13 million for Marcelo Salas, a relatively untested 21-year-old forward. There remains, however, a distinct possibility that the Chile international striker could eventually arrive at Old Trafford.

Salas enjoys a burgeoning reputation in South America, one that was enhanced on Saturday when, watched by Brian Kidd, the United assistant manager, he scored a hat-trick in his country's 4-0 victory over Peru. Kidd duly gave a favourable report and Martin Edwards, the club chairman and chief executive, subsequently made contact with River Plate, the Argentine club that Salas is contracted to until 1999, to express an interest.

The response has been confusing. David Pinto, the River Plate vice-president, was reported as asserting that Salas would not be allowed to

leave before the end of the year, but, yesterday, Alfredo Davico, the president, confirming United's interest, admitted that he would be prepared to open negotiations — at £13 million. Perhaps coincidentally, that figure also happens to represent the size of the club's debts.

Manchester United will be reluctant to become involved in any talks that are conducted in such a public manner. However, Alex Ferguson, the manager, indicated yesterday that while there is no immediate prospect of any incoming transfer, he would monitor the situation and could be prepared to move some time early in the new year, before the deadline for the knockout stages of the European Cup should United qualify. "We are aware of the lad, but there is no prospect of any transfer at the club at present," he said. "We will not be signing anyone until after the Champions' League stage."

Sources within the club suggest that, although Ferguson is interested in signing Salas, he accepts that the club's board would not be willing to pay such a fee for an inexperienced forward. There is also the tricky subject of work permits. Salas has played barely a handful of games for his country and would have difficulty in qualifying under the stringent rules set down by the Department of Employment.

It is a road that United have been down before, when they tried to sign Mauro da Silva, the Brazilian. Edwards would be reluctant to make a further move unless he is confident of a successful outcome.

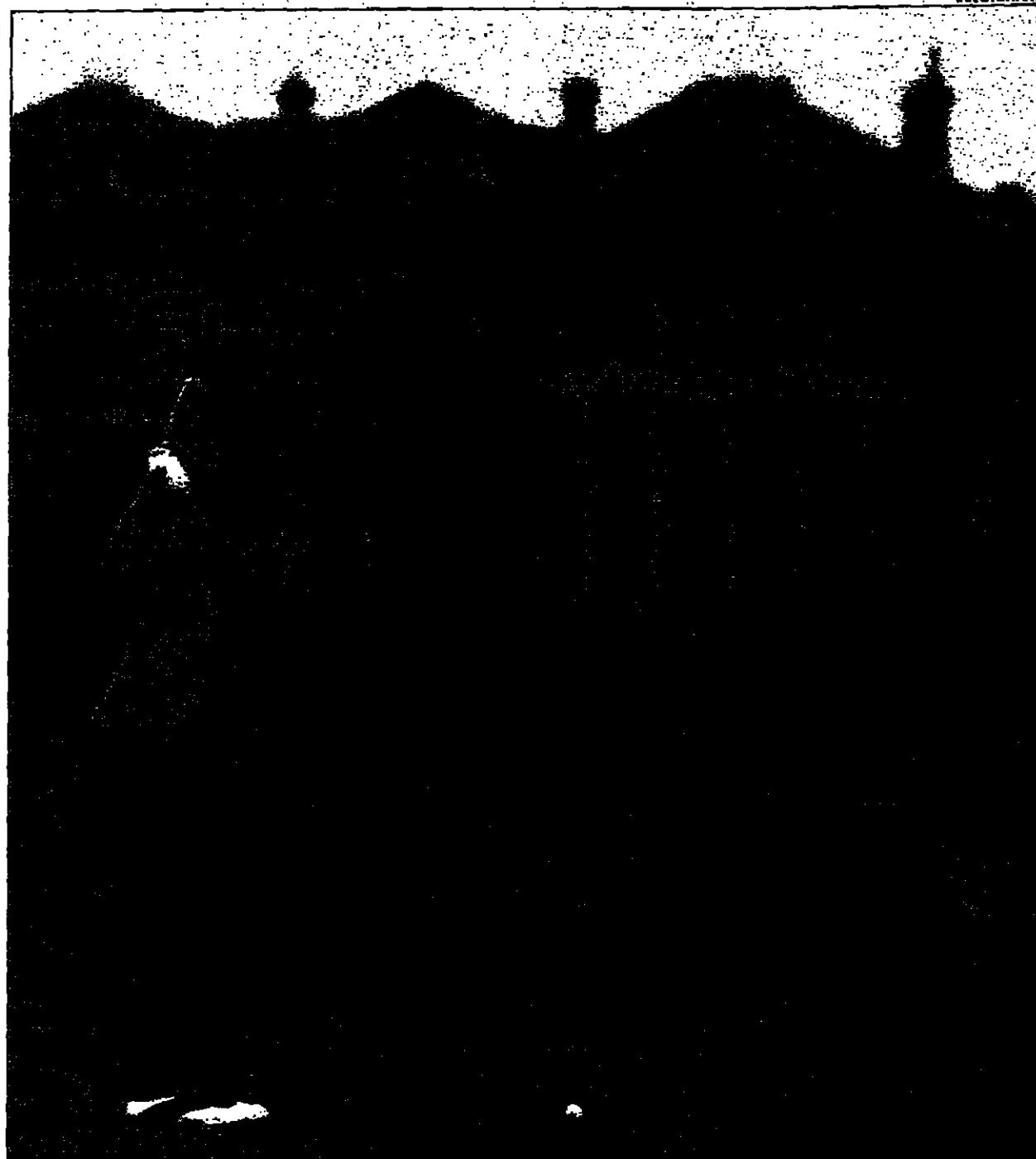
David Murray, the Rangers chairman, confirmed yesterday that he will allow Paul Gascoigne to leave Glasgow should the player so desire, yet despite reports that Aston Villa had bid £4 million for the England international, his destination is far from certain. Tottenham Hotspur, Gascoigne's former club, are thought likely to register their interest early next week.

Gascoigne has made no secret of his continuing affection for his former club and is understood to have told several close friends that he would love to return to Tottenham to enhance his chances of playing in the World Cup finals next summer. He will probably have to make a decision within the next week and it will not be easy.

Gascoigne has been inspired by Rangers' attempt to win ten successive Scottish League titles, thus eclipsing Celtic's record, but he recognises several strong reasons for him to move, not least because he is not now guaranteed a first-team place.

Gascoigne also realises that the lack of competition at club level in Scotland could hinder his prospects of playing in France. Rangers are again out of Europe at an early stage and the intense rivalry in the FA Cup Premiership appears far more attractive.

Tottenham have remained quiet on the subject, in part because they are wary of being linked with a big-name player only to lose out, as happened with their attempts to sign Juninho and Fabrizio Ravanelli. There remains, however, a determination at the club to bring Gascoigne back to London. They have struggled for five years to fill the void left by Gascoigne's departure. Money, too, is no object, with Alan Sugar, the chairman, already sanctioning a bid in excess of the £4 million that Rangers would demand.



O'Meara, playing to the backdrop of the 18th, makes himself at home at St Andrews during the Dunhill Cup

## O'Meara plays captain's role

MARK O'MEARA likes the Old Course at St Andrews. The American, whose greying hair, bulging waistline and friendly face make him resemble a middle-aged insurance salesman, feels comfortable at the place he refers to as the home of golf. Such feelings of familiarity were first demonstrated in the Dunhill Cup last year when O'Meara had a dazzling onward 28 on his way to a 63.

They were increased yesterday when O'Meara defeated Eduardo Romero, of Argentina, at the first extra hole of the United States v Argentina match. O'Meara had to play a captain's role because the match depended on him. With a resolute four, when he was helped by watching Romero hit his second into the Swilcan Burn after one bounce, O'Meara made sure the US defeated Argentina. A 65 by Justin Leonard, the Open champion, for victory over José Coorens, was cancelled out by Angel Cabrera's victory over Brad Faxon.

O'Meara's 63 last year contained eight successive birdies from the 2nd to the 9th and was only one stroke outside the 62 by Curtis Strange in this event in 1987. And this despite taking a six on the 17th.

Leonard's 65 yesterday was more than competent, too.

"I saw Justin was eight under after 12 holes," O'Meara said "and thought to myself: 'He is going to shoot a 59.' " A 59 was not on the cards after Leonard dropped strokes on the 14th and 15th but he ended courageously by getting a par at the 17th and birdieing the last.

One advantage of this peculiar medal matchplay format is that every match must play the 17th, no matter by how many strokes one man may be leading the other. Most years the Road Hole gives so much pleasure and excitement it is worthy of an entrance fee all of its own. Yesterday was no exception.

Tsukasa Watanabe, the highest man in the Japan

team, ran up a six against Russell Claydon, the heaviest member of England's trio, which took the pressure off Claydon and helped England to win 3-0. Paul McInerney, of Ireland, birdied the 16th and then parred the 17th to claw his way back to within two strokes of Relief Coosten. This was not close enough, because he lost by one stroke to Coosten and with Darren Clarke taking too many putts against Ernie Els, Ireland lost to South Africa.

A seven was taken on the 17th by Raymond Russell, the Scot, who had the bizarre figures of 3, 3, 6, 4, 7 for the 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th holes, the pars for which are 4, 5, 4, 4, 4. Russell drove into the Old Course hole on the 17th. This did not cost his team dear.

because he still comfortably beat Thomas Gogole and Colin Montgomerie, who went round in 67, was untroubled by a 73 by Sven Struer.

The 17th contributed to France's 2-1 defeat of Australia when Steve Elkington took a five there and Jean Van de Velde birdied it. That put the two men level. Elkington missed a six-foot uphill putt on the last green to win. Then, with less than 80 yards to go to the flag on the 1st, the man who won the Players' Championship last March hit his ball in to the Swilcan Burn. Thus did he do like many a player before him — and no doubt many more in the days to come.

## RESULTS FROM ST ANDREWS

GROUP ONE: England vs Japan, 3-0 (England names first: P. Claydon 70 to Watanabe 71; L. Westwood 70 to N. Sato 72; M. James 73 to G. Hoge 74; United States vs Argentina 2-1 (United States names first: M. O'Meara 67 to E. Romero 67; J. Leonard 65 to J. Coorens 72).

GROUP TWO: Sweden vs Taiwan 3-0 (Sweden names first: J. Hoggman 72 to H. Shyu 74; P. F. Jonsson 71 to C. Chen 72; H. Chen 73 to P. U. Jonsson 71).

GROUP THREE: South Africa vs Ireland 2-1 (Ireland names first: P. McInerney 71 to R. Coosten 70; P. McInerney 71 to R. Coosten 70; P. McInerney 71 to R. Coosten 70).

GROUP FOUR: Zimbabwe vs South Korea 2-1 (Zimbabwe names first: M. Price 72 to M. Jong-Kyung 73; T. Jonsson 72 to M. Jong-Kyung 73; T. Jonsson 72 to M. Jong-Kyung 73).

## Athletes confirm support for recovery programme

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THE British Athletes' Association (BAA) yesterday gave unreserved backing to David Moorcroft to lead the sport out of its present crisis and, at the same time, said that its members were less concerned with personal losses than helping the recovery.

All the top-earning British athletes have yet to be paid for their appearances in British meetings this year. Now they face an anxious wait for their money after the British Athletic Federation, of which Moorcroft has been chief executive for 16 days, went into administration on Tuesday.

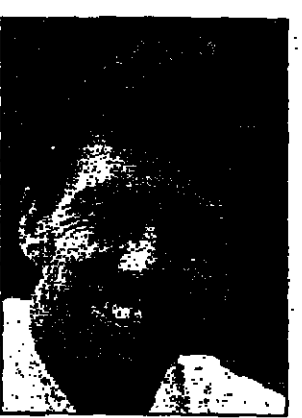
Jonathan Edwards and Sally Gunnell, for example, are owed in the region of £70,000. Yesterday the BAA met for the first time since the BAF declared itself insolvent, with a deficit of £530,000, and the meeting, which lasted six hours, was attended by 13 members of the board of 19.

Among them was Paula Radcliffe, who said: "We are not so interested in the short-term let's-get-our-money-back approach. This has given us an incentive to set up a better

structure for the sport and for the youngsters, to give them a better chance than we had."

Moorcroft, having inherited a "situation" which, had he known it was coming, would have persuaded him against taking the job, will stay for the fight. Radcliffe described him as "a big ass" while Steve Backley, also present at the meeting in Birmingham, said that Moorcroft had "brought ideas to the table and was receptive to our ideas".

What those ideas were, the



Moorcroft: committed

## Villeneuve appeal withdrawn

By MICHAEL CALVIN

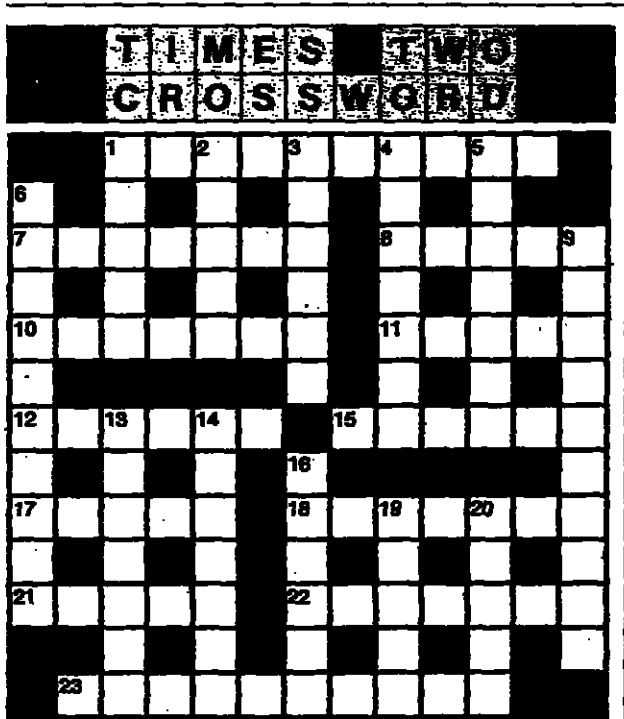
JACQUES VILLENEUVE discovered the cost of his flawed challenge for the Formula One world championship yesterday, when the Williams team bowed to the inevitable and withdrew its appeal against his disqualification from the Japanese Grand Prix last weekend.

The loss of the two points earned for a nominal fifth place at Suzuka means that he must finish ahead of Michael Schumacher in the final race, at Jerez in nine days, to clinch the title.

The solitary compensation for the meltdown, decided upon at a meeting convened by Frank Williams, the owner, on Wednesday evening is that it takes the uncertainty of the appeal's process out of an increasingly complicated equation.

Formula One now has the climax to the season it craves, a head-to-head confrontation between its most ardent drivers. Schumacher, one point ahead, has seized the initiative. It is up to Villeneuve to prove that he has the strength of character to respond.

Salas has made a big impression at Old Trafford



No 1227

## ACROSS

- 1 Incantatory gibberish (5,5)
- 7 Let go film, CD issue (7)
- 8 Stood along (route); careworn (face) (5)
- 10 Welsh capital (7)
- 11 Takes off (eg hat) (5)
- 12 Subjugate; lessen (6)
- 15 Part of body; spines (anag.) (6)
- 17 When signalled (2,3)
- 18 Within earshot (7)
- 21 After: simple dress (5)
- 22 Sob: aquatic insulation (7)
- 23 Wastrel (4-2-4)

## DOWN

- 1 Grinding tooth (5)
- 2 Florida reason (5)
- 3 Unrepeatable (item, event) (3-3)
- 4 With no cargo (7)
- 5 Advantage (7)
- 6 Chancy, insecure (10)
- 9 Vanishes (10)
- 13 Misdread (7)
- 14 Originator (7)
- 16 Panda food (6)
- 19 Two; 40-40 (5)
- 20 Tower of confusion (5)

## SOLUTION TO NO 1226

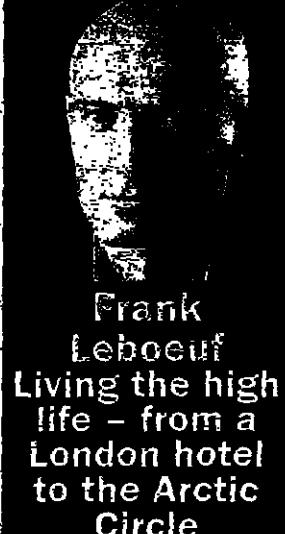
ACROSS: 1 Behind bars 8 All told 9 Theme 10 Easy 11 Silbiant 13 Chair 14 Aside 16 Grounded 17 Limp 20 Agent 21 Partake 22 Retrogress

DOWN: 1 Blake 2 Half-seas-over 3 Neon 4 Bodkin 5 Rattigan 6 Rehabilitate 7 Beetle 12 Brunette 13 Cognac 15 Keeper 18 Press 19 Brag

## THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS — SPECIAL OFFER: The Times Jumbo Crosswords Book 2 is available to Times readers for just £4 (RRP £4.99) while supplies last from The Times Bookshop. Compensation released of The Times Two Crosswords Book 2 — £2.99. The Times Crosswords (Volumes 10, 11, 12, 13 — £3.99 each) and Times Computer Crosswords on disk may also be ordered, with free delivery, along with any other books from The Times Bookshop. To order simply call 0990 134 459 for credit card orders or for further details. If paying by cheque/PO, please make payable to News Books/Crosswords and send to: The Times Bookshop, PO Box 26, Falmouth, TR11 2TX. Delivery in 10-14 days and subject to availability.

## TOMORROW IN THE TIMES FOOTBALL SATURDAY



Frank Lehoucuf

Living the high life — from a London hotel to the Arctic Circle



Jim Smith

Oliver Holt finds a long-serving manager receptive to new ideas



Danny Baker

How to put the fizz back into the Coca-Cola Cup

Plus TALKING HORSE

Simon Barnes on an appointment with reality for Daggers Drawn

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